

## Pollard witnesses still reluctant

# Snags bedevil inquiry

By MENACHEM SHALEV

The government's commitment to supply the U.S. with evidence concerning the Pollard spy scandal is still preventing three witnesses from agreeing to testify before the Rotenstreich-Tsur panel. A meeting yesterday between the three witnesses' lawyer, MK David Libai, and Attorney-General Yosef Harish failed to resolve the issue.

In a two-and-a-half hour meeting, Libai reiterated to Harish that they are seeking clear-cut assurances that Yosef Yagur, Ilan Ravid and Irit Erb, who operated Pollard in the U.S., will not incriminate themselves in testimony before the panel.

Well-placed sources said yesterday that the matter will need a political solution rather than a legal one. The sources said that the cabinet will be forced to choose between formally reneging on its commitment to the U.S. — thus further straining the already tense Israeli-U.S. relations — or refusing to supply the assurances demanded by Libai. This latter step would presumably lead to the disbandment of the Rotenstreich-Tsur panel.

Libai reportedly told Harish that his clients had agreed to testify before the Knesset sub-committee on intelligence services, which is also investigating the Pollard scandal, and would agree to testify before a judicial commission of inquiry because these bodies had the power to withhold testimony from any outside sources. He reportedly rejected the type of government guarantees which Harish had been authorized to propose as not sufficiently binding.

Harish's proposed solution at Sunday's cabinet session — that he would invoke his authority under the Legal Assistance to Foreign States Law not to transfer the testimony — was found not to be tenable in this case. The law applies only to relations between judicial bodies and not to relations between governments.

Harish is reportedly considering other solutions, such as a declaration by the defence minister that the testimony of the three be deemed a state secret. Such a decision, however, also falls short of the type of formal guarantee demanded by Libai.

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## Bar-Am, Iran arms figure, returns to Israel

TEL AVIV. — Brig.-Gen. (res.) Avraham Bar-Am, who was charged in the U.S. last year with conspiring to sell \$2b. worth of American arms to Iran, arrived in Israel last night, after being allowed bail.

Bar-Am refused to discuss his case with reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport.

He was arrested with three other Israelis in Bermuda last April 21. They were later flown to the U.S.

after a Bermuda court rejected their appeals against extradition.

Early this month the U.S. District Court in Manhattan gave the four permission to return to Israel after they had posted bail and the Israel government had given an assurance that it would not prevent the defendants from returning to the U.S. for the trial, due to begin on May 18.

Two of the other Israelis, Israel Eisenberg and his son Gurriel, have

also returned here. The fourth Israeli is William Northrop, an arms dealer with Israel-U.S. citizenship.

Israel has denied involvement in the planned arms deals, alleged to have involved planes and other advanced weaponry.

U.S. officials said the conspiracy was uncovered in a sophisticated "sting" operation.

Thirteen other people were indicted in the U.S. with the Israelis.

## Mass sackings at troubled Hebrew U.

By BERNARD JOSEPHS

The first of 500 administrative workers facing the axe from the near-bankrupt Hebrew University are to be fired on April 1, university sources said yesterday.

Officials revealed that the institution has appealed for an immediate \$10 million cash injection from the government to prevent disruptions and closures during the current academic year.

First to go in the mass sackings will be untenured administrative staff, said a senior source. But eventually permanent officials too will be dismissed.

By the time the dismissals stop, he added, the non-teaching payroll will have been reduced by 25 per cent and the academic staff will have been cut by 15 per cent.

The number of people to go on April 1 is not yet public, said the source, but it will be "considerably more than a handful."

The firings are part of a tough, long-term recovery plan revealed to members of the Knesset Control Committee yesterday by Hebrew University president Amnon Pazy.

A large number of dismissals was inevitable, he said, despite pay-cut agreements recently concluded with both academic and administrative

employees.

Pazy told MKs that the university, whose operating budget was \$30m. and accumulated deficit totalled over \$60m., was doing its utmost to improve the situation.

It had saved \$10m. by cutting back on salaries, equipment and books. Staff members who left or retired were not being replaced.

In addition, said the president, overseas supporters had promised to make a special effort to raise funds and it was hoped \$10m. would come from them.

But despite all this, he stressed, the university was still short of \$10m. to finance its operations this year and it had no choice but to turn to the government for help.

Said a senior university official: "We have cut the maximum in the current year, and as for overseas fund-raisers — well, how much can you squeeze a friend?"

Without government help, he went on, the institution would soon run out of money to pay wages, buy supplies and meet basic expenses such as electricity and water bills.

"The accumulated deficit is no longer our major worry," he said. "Our major concern is how to get through this year without closures and disruptions."

## Egypt invites Waldheim

VIENNA (AP). — Egypt has invited President Kurt Waldheim for an official visit, the Austrian President's office said yesterday.

In addition, spokesman Gerold Christian said no dates have been set. Several Gulf states and European countries have also issued invitations, he maintained, but declined to go into details.

Waldheim has not travelled abroad officially since his election in June and his critics say governments are reluctant to invite him because of the controversy surrounding his past. His office denies that Waldheim has stayed home because of lack of invitations.

## Woman soldier hurt in stoning

By JOEL GREENBERG

Jerusalem Post Reporter

A woman soldier was wounded in the face yesterday when she was hit by a stone thrown at an Israeli vehicle in downtown Ramallah.

Orli Maimon had teeth broken when youths hurled stones at a car with soldiers at Manara Square, shattering the vehicle's windshield. Maimon was taken to Hadassah Hospital in Ein Karem, where she underwent surgery on her jaw.

Security forces arrested three suspects.

## More crime in 1987

The crime rate appears to have risen in the first two months of the year, police figures released yesterday show.

The police said they opened 5.8 per cent more files on criminal cases in January-February of this year than in the same period last year. Theft cases were up 3.7 per cent, arson 19.2 per cent, and assault 6.3 per cent.

Two murders and 38 rapes were reported to the police, compared with 10 murders and 39 rapes in the first two months of 1986. (Idm)

## Brandt, under fire, quitting his post

BONN (Reuters). — Veteran politician Willy Brandt, former West German Chancellor and Nobel peace prize winner, is stepping down as chairman of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) after criticism of his leadership.

The SPD will hold a special congress on June 16 to elect a successor to Brandt, who has been party chairman since 1964.

The decision follows criticism of Brandt, aged 73, by senior party members for his nomination of a Greek, non-party member as the SPD's new spokeswoman.

Brandt's proposal of Margarita Mathiopoulos, a 31-

year-old public relations officer with IBM to the key post unleashed a furore within the party with some senior members openly questioning Brandt's ability to continue leading the party.

Mathiopoulos, who was born and raised in Bonn and is a close friend of the Brandt family, said earlier in the day that she no longer wished to be considered for the post.

Last night the party named a new leader. He is Hans-Jochen Vogel, 61, who received 32 of the 34 votes cast in the SPD presidium, and serves as the party's parliamentary leader and vice-president.



Minister without Portfolio Moshe Arens receives a Beduin sword from Sheikh Oudeh Abu Muammar. The sheikh was the minister's host when he visited a number of Beduin tribes in the Negev yesterday. (Maggie Ayalon)

## 'Hostile judges' charge dismissed

By ERNIE MEYER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The three judges in the Demjanjuk war crimes trial yesterday rejected a surprise motion by the defence to disqualify themselves on the grounds of "hostility" to the defence.

The court later also denied a request by the defence to halt the trial until it could appeal the court's refusal to disqualify itself to the Supreme Court.

As the session opened, a hushed audience heard Yoram Sheftel, the Israeli member of the defence team, accuse the court of "deep-seated hostility." After Sheftel had detailed his grievances for over half an hour, the judges retired to their chambers for consultation and re-emerged after close to two hours.

Rejecting the defence motion, presiding Judge Dov Levin said: "This court has no hostility towards the defence in general and lawyer Sheftel in particular. We have acted with unusual leniency (towards the defence) in this case because of the gravity of the charges hanging over the accused. We have been unusually patient."

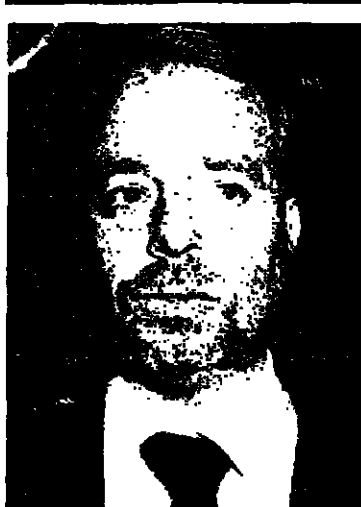
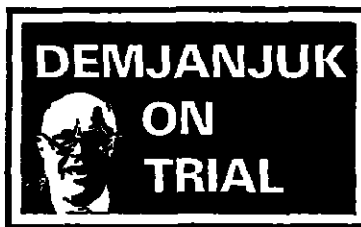
Levin then went on to rebut Sheftel's charges in detail.

Sheftel had been particularly angry over the court's decision last Thursday not to admit into evidence a 1978 ruling by a Florida court in the case of Fedor Federenko, a Treblinka death camp guard. The ruling concerned the inability of survivor Eugen Turofsky to identify Federenko in the court room.

Last week prosecution witness Miriam Radwiker, testifying on the strength of her interviews with Turofsky, who is now deceased, said that he identified both Federenko and John Demjanjuk from photos. Sheftel claimed, that since Turofsky had been unable to identify the living Federenko in Florida, he would also not be able to identify Demjanjuk's photo, if he were alive today.

The court on Thursday ruled that the Florida trial record was not acceptable as evidence and that the defence must bring the Florida judge or another court official to Jerusalem to testify regarding the size of the Florida courtroom in which the confrontation had taken place, and other circumstances surrounding the incident.

An outraged Sheftel said: "The fact that you want us to bear the



Yoram Sheftel (Harari)

\$3,000-\$5,000 cost of bringing over witnesses is proof of your deep-seated hostility; this is the straw that breaks the camel's back."

Sheftel also reminded the court that on Thursday it had supported police investigator Radwiker when she had said that she did "not believe" Sheftel. "I do not need marks regarding my integrity from Mrs. Radwiker," he added.

Addressing himself to Judge Zvi Tal in particular, Sheftel said that he had defended a client in Tal's court, when Tal had upbraided a witness for the very same conduct which he now condoned from Mrs. Radwiker.

Sheftel also noted the sharp reprimand from Levin when chief defence counsel Mark O'Connor had asked Radwiker, 81, whether she had any children. Levin termed the question "indicative."

A further complaint was that the prosecution had received the court's permission to question four witnesses in Germany and in Belgium, where they cannot be cross-examined by the defence. In these cases, where the witnesses say they cannot travel to Israel because of old age or infirmity, no medical certificate

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## New Soviet approaches

# More states pushing for int'l parley

By BENNY MORRIS

Post Diplomatic Correspondent and Staff

HELSINKI. — The five Scandinavian countries will jointly declare their support for an international conference on Middle East peace, a senior source said here yesterday.

The source said that the foreign ministers of the five — Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland — have put the Middle East high on the agenda for their regular biennial meeting, to be held tomorrow and Thursday.

They are expected to voice their firm support for a conference along the lines suggested by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Finland, said the source, has already declared its backing for such a conference, as has Denmark, a member of the European Community.

The expected statement by the Scandinavians would be yet another sign of growing worldwide interest in the peace conference idea.

According to officials in Jerusalem, Soviet diplomats in the U.S. and elsewhere have approached their Israeli counterparts on numerous occasions in recent weeks to discuss the peace conference and the possibility of convening an international conference.

The latest version of the Soviet position on peace talks was recently transmitted to Israel by the U.S., following a meeting in Washington between a Soviet diplomat and a senior State Department official.

The Soviets said they do not want to impose a solution on Israel, but are interested in making possible face-to-face talks between Israel and the Arabs in the framework of an international conference.

But Israeli officials give little weight to the latest Soviet statement. They say it shows no change in the Kremlin's insistence that only the five permanent members of the Security Council participate in a preparatory session of the proposed conference.

Moscow is also sticking to its demand that the Palestinian issue be discussed only in the conference plenum and not in bilateral talks, the officials said.



Paavo Vayrynen

The Soviet diplomat said in Washington that Moscow sees no reason to restore diplomatic ties with Israel as a precondition to taking part in a conference. He noted that in 1973 the Soviet Union participated in the Geneva conference, despite the lack of diplomatic relations with Israel.

As for Israel's demand that the Kremlin change its policy toward Soviet Jews, the diplomat said this was an internal Soviet matter.

In an interview in Helsinki yesterday, Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen said that the routine meetings of the Scandinavian Foreign Ministers usually do not result in a public statement. But this time, he said, there was a "possibility" of such a joint declaration, in line with what he described as the "traditional position of the Nordic countries" in support of an international peace conference. "It might have some influence" on the Middle East political situation, the foreign minister said.

Vayrynen said that during his visit to Israel last year, Prime Minister Shamir suggested that Finland change its attitude toward the PLO. Vayrynen said he replied that Finland will not change its view that the PLO "is the most important representative of the Palestinian people."

But added that Finland does not regard the PLO as "the only" representative of the Palestinians. At their meetings this week, the Scandinavian foreign ministers may also discuss the role of Unifil and the situation in Lebanon. Finland, for its part, "has no plan to withdraw from Unifil," according to the senior source in Helsinki.

## IAF planes strike at PLO site near Sidon

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT

Post Defence Correspondent

TEL AVIV. — Israel Air Force planes yesterday morning devastated a two-storey building used by the PLO near Sidon. The IDF spokesman identified the target as "a terrorist organization's headquarters where attacks against Israel were planned."

Yesterday's raid was the second since Friday and the eight since the beginning of the year.

Reports from Lebanon said a nearby school was damaged and two Palestinians injured.

The building was located at the Darb al-Sim area, near the Miyeh Miyeh refugee camp. The planes — according to Lebanese police they were four F-15s — appeared overhead at 6.25 a.m. and the raid lasted seven minutes.

The IDF spokesman did not say what kind of bombs had been used, but Lebanese reports said they were implosion or vacuum bombs designed to collapse buildings while causing little damage outside the immediate area.

The building collapsed completely

and some five minutes later there was a large explosion, suggesting that bombs had been stored in the basement, a military source told *The Jerusalem Post*.

The number of casualties was small, apparently because Fatah had anticipated an attack. Reports from Beirut quoted a PLO spokesman as saying their fighters had been alerted by a series of mock raids over the past week and had moved to the nearby hills before the attack.

The enemy fired anti-aircraft guns, but all planes returned safely to base, an IDF source said.

The damaged school was situated some 75 metres from the PLO headquarters and is reported to have been an institution for handicapped children. No one was injured there as the raid was launched before the pupils arrived.

Meanwhile, a South Lebanese Army soldier was wounded by terrorist fire inside the security zone in South Lebanon Sunday night, SLA sources reported yesterday.

The soldier was hit when gunmen opened fire at a SLA stronghold in the central sector. He was hospitalized in Marjayoun.

more orderly," he said.

Katsav's room is adorned with two pictures of a smiling Menachem Begin hugging a younger Katsav. The minister admitted that some kind of message from the former premier would be "very helpful" calming the tension in Herut but said that he himself had not attempted to secure such a message.

"I don't want to bother the man," he said, "he knows what is going on, he follows events, he hears, he reads, he will decide for himself."

Katsav stated that he does not belong to any particular camp within the party nor does he recognize those "which have caused so much harm." He believes that most Herutniks are opposed to the three

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'Against exploitation' declares the poster carried yesterday down Rehov Dizengoff in Tel Aviv by students protesting against the government's plan to increase tuition fees. (M. Daniel/Media)

For the past year, Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katsav has been haunted by a recurring nightmare: that there will be a repeat performance of last year's chaotic Herut Convention which disbanded without being able to fulfill its tasks.

Katsav, who as chairman of the presidium is charged with organization of next Sunday's "second session" of the convention, has said that "if the riots recur, there will be no third session." Herut, he said, "will break up, suffer irreparable damage and slip into opposition within a few years. During the past year we have repeatedly been on the verge of collapse."

Katsav succeeded in eliciting a tentative agreement this week on the convention's agenda from Herut's warring ministers. He cautions,

however, that the agreement is still not "absolute."

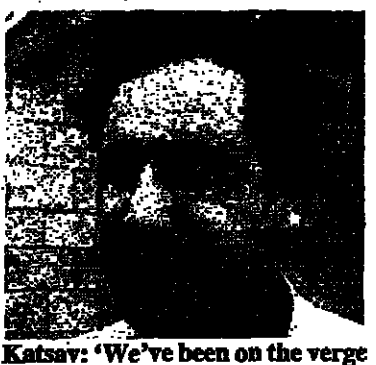
The Herut leaders' quibbles are "ridiculous and absurd," said Katsav. "There are so many fateful issues that we have to deal with on both the national and political level. The future of the Herut movement hangs in the balance, and here we are endlessly bickering over such things as whether or not to elect a deputy chairman who may compete, and so on. Definitely not something to be proud of."

Said Katsav of his colleagues: "I

was amazed. Are they blind? Can't they see what is happening?" Herut, he said, has a "glorious past and a promising future" and it is all "going to waste — over what? Over some personal power struggle which, I must tell you, is still far from over."

The differences between the Herut leaders are deep, he said, "time is needed before the deep-seated resentments can disappear or at least be reduced."

Katsav said the party ministers were "not cooperative" with his attempts to bridge the gaps between,



Katsav: 'We've been on the verge of collapse' (Harari)

them. "They are all anxious about the effects of the inner party strife, but are so personally involved that they thwarted any possible compromise."

One of the few items on the agenda which has not been disputed is the approval of Herut's merger with the Liberal Party. Katsav, however, says that "in the past few days there have been voices in Herut calling for a reevaluation of the merger" because of internal strife in the Liberal Party, which makes Herut's conflicts pale in comparison.

Katsav said the Herut leadership met during the past few days and decided to press on with the merger "despite everything," because "we want to live up to our commitments to our partners."

Delegates to the Herut convention will have to carry special identification cards with their photographs, a Katsav-inspired innovation in Israel's political scene. At last April's riotous convention, hundreds of unauthorized participants were running around the hall, said Katsav. "This time things will be



### The weather at major Swissair destinations

23.3.87

	MIN.	MAX.	Rate
AMSTERDAM	4	20	8
BRUSSELS	2	11	5
WILMANSLOO	1	10	5
CHICAGO	-1	30	6
COPENHAGEN	-2	28	4
FRANKFURT	-1	29	1
GENEVA	1	34	6
HELSINKI	-3	27	1
HONGKONG	24	28	7
JALANDESBURG	13	25	7
LONDON	8	16	4
MADRID	-1	19	14
MONTREAL	-4	30	14
NEW YORK	-4	30	14
ORLE	-2	26	14
PARIS	-2	26	14
RIO DE JANEIRO	19	26	14
SAO PAULO	17	26	14
STOCKHOLM	-2	28	14
TOKYO	1	13	14
TORONTO	-1	34	14
VIENNA	-5	23	14
ZURICH	3	20	14

\*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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Jerusalem, 30 Jaffa St. 02-231373  
Haifa 2 Sha'ar HaNahar St. 04-535282  
Be'er Sheva 23 Ha'azovot St. 05-353282  
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### THE WEATHER

Forecast: Cloudy and hot with possibility of light local showers.

	Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min-Max	Today's Max
Jerusalem	13	12-21	25
Golan	21	9-18	23
Nahariya	—	—	—
Safad	32	8-15	20
Haifa Port	—	—	—
Tiberias	26	10-28	30
Nazareth	21	11-22	25
Afula	32	10-25	27
Samaria	17	10-22	25
Tel Aviv	19	10-28	26
B-G Airport	14	6-27	27
Jericho	19	10-30	32
Gaza	14	12-28	26
BeerSheva	15	12-27	31
Eilat	25	19-29	37

### SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The new Chilean ambassador, Santiago Bandava, and the new Argentinian ambassador, Alberto Eduardo Ham, presented their credentials yesterday to President Herzog.

### ARRIVALS

Hyman Bookbinder, Special Representative in Washington D.C. and Dr. George Gruen, Director, Israel and Middle East Affairs Department, of the American Jewish Committee.

### SA swastikas played down

The Israel embassy in South Africa has received telephone threats since Israel announced limited sanctions against Pretoria. In addition, parcels marked with swastikas have been received in Israel from Johannesburg. However, the number of such incidents has been called "inconsequential" by Israeli officials.

Israel's ambassador to Pretoria, David Ariel, said yesterday that the decision to reduce ties with South Africa had not created "waves" there.

Reports of the threats to the embassy and of swastika daubings were confirmed by Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem yesterday. "I imagine that in Israel things are seen quite disproportionately," Ariel said in an interview with Israel Radio. He hinted that the reports here exaggerated the importance of Israel in the mind of the South African public.

Meanwhile, a group of 31 women from South Africa, members of various black organizations, arrived in Israel yesterday as guests of Na'amat, the Histadrut women's group. The visitors will take part in a seminar and educational tour focusing on community work and the status of women.

The group is the third one of black South Africans to be hosted here by Histadrut institutions. The head of the group, Deborah Mabiletsa, said at Ben-Gurion Airport: "We came to build bridges of friendship and cooperation with an organization that denounced apartheid."

### For some elderly, the golden years can lose their lustre.

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The Fund supports and maintains day care centres, where our needy elderly can spend their time in a happy, social atmosphere, with arts and crafts, entertainment and friendship. The Forsake Me Not Fund ensures their "home away from home" has furniture, equipment and games, and is maintained, heated and kept clean.

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Many of Israel's elderly people live in sub-standard homes that urgently require repair or renovation, as well as security measures such as locks or beepers.

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## HOME NEWS

# Navon plays truant from universities debate

By ASHER WALLFISH  
DORAH GETZLER  
Education Minister Yitzhak Navon was absent from all but the first 10 minutes of yesterday's three-hour debate on the parous state of the universities. "And that is maybe why the country's education system looks as it does," asserted Tehiya's Rafael Eitan.

Navon, said Eitan, cannot tell either the Knesset or the government what the future holds, because "I fear he doesn't know what's going on." The country, Eitan forecast, was moving towards a "social holocaust."

The Likud's Benny Shalit seemed unaware of the claims made by the Alignment's Education Committee Chairman Nahman Raz and Aharon Harel (who chaired the sessions of the State Comptroller's Committee that had dealt with the Comptroller's report on the universities). Both Alignment men had pointed to the dangerously declining proportion of university students in Israel vis-a-vis other countries.

Shalit claimed that "every boy and girl can go to university today. Soon they'll perhaps all have to become professors." But he deplored the fact that too many humanities graduates were unwilling to take up any form of manual work.

The Likud MK wanted the budgetary emphasis put on vocational education and teachers' colleges.

Too many university graduates especially in the humanities, were potential emigrants, he complained. Study of subjects that were important to the national economy or to security should be subsidized.

Harel particularly objected to Shalit's attack on professorial sabbaticals spent abroad. The Knesset, he warned, should not waste time on a peripheral issue, for the Comptroller's report had not scored the practice as such, but rather its occasional abuse.

Harel and Raz particularly lashed the way in which the budget for the universities had been increased "on paper," without there being any indication of what tuition fees would be.

The only way that the government could meet that obligation was by raising tuition fees to a level that would put university education beyond the reach of any but the rich, they protested.

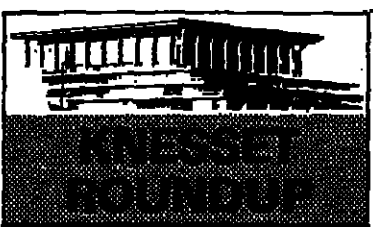
### Shas claims 'apartheid'

The ultra-orthodox Shas faction yesterday attacked the Jewish Agency and Youth Aliya for denying funds to ultra-orthodox educational institutions on the grounds that they were "not Zionist."

When Shas leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz brought the charge up at the Knesset Education Committee, a Youth Aliya representative, who

was given the floor by chairman Nahman Raz, said that in practice all the institutions which had received subsidies continue to do so, whatever the nature of their Zionist or non-Zionist educational programme.

Peretz asked Raz whether he would also give the floor to heads of Shas educational institutions who attended the open committee session to refute the Youth Aliya case. But Raz refused. The Shas faction



then issued an angry statement to the press accusing Youth Aliya of practising "apartheid" against the ultra-orthodox community in Israel.

### MKS say 'no' to Hillel

Three MKs have refused to accompany President Chaim Herzog on his state visit to Germany on April 5, after being asked to do so by Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel.

The first to turn down the invitation was Avraham Werdiger (Morasha), after which Hillel sought another ultra-orthodox MK and

turned to former interior minister Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz (Shas). Peretz, too, refused.

The third MK to decline was Eli Kulas (Likud) who did so yesterday. As things now stand therefore, two MKs will be going with the president: Dov Ben-Meir (Alignment) who is also the chairman of the Israel-Germany Parliamentary Friendship Association, and an orthodox member, Dr. Yosef Buig (National Religious Party) also a former interior minister and religious affairs minister.

The West German President, Richard von Weizsaecker, was accompanied by a group of Bundestag members when he visited Israel last year.

### Minister refuses to reply

Agriculture Minister Aryeh Nehamkin refused to answer a parliamentary question about the purchase of land in the Moslem quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, on the grounds that an answer would be "injurious to the interests of the State."

Questioner Matityahu Peled (Progressive Peace List), who complained to Nehamkin and to Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel about being denied an answer, asked the minister to confirm a report in *Ha'aretz* that the Israel Lands Administration recently bought two dunams of land

near Herod's Gate from the White Russian Church.

The report said the aim of the purchase was to lease the two dunams to the Ateret Kohanim association, which is busy settling the Moslem quarter.

Peled asked Nehamkin whether Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek was aware of the ILA's aim to help Kahana provocateurs settle in the Moslem quarter and harass the local residents.

### Help for potential jobless

Workers threatened with unemployment because the company for which they work is forced to close for financial reasons may be able to save their jobs if they band together to take over the company with the help of loans from a joint government-Histadrut fund.

Under a law that passed its second and third readings in the Knesset yesterday, a fund for this purpose is to be set up, with the government and the unions contributing equal sums. Access to the fund is limited to companies that have up to 200 employees.

The law had its genesis in the last Knesset, when it was put forward by Mapam's Imri Ron. It was backed in the present Knesset by MKs from the Alignment, Mapam and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality's Tewfik Toubi.

## Eban not going to Washington

Post Knesset Correspondent  
Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, yesterday scotched rumours spread by Israel Radio that he might become the next ambassador in Washington.

Eban, a former foreign minister and education minister, issued a statement saying that the gap between his own political position and that of the present government made the idea unreasonable from every point of view.

If approached, he said, he would not agree to accept the appointment.

"The serious mishaps which cropped up lately in Israel's relations with the U.S. have no relevant connection with the post of ambassador, and the faults will not be remedied within the very restricted framework of the post."

"The problem is not how to present Israel's policy, but rather how to shape it, and mainly how to change that policy," said Eban.

## 'Miscarriage' woman out on bail

By JOEL GREENBERG  
A jailed Palestinian woman, who said she had miscarried following beating and maltreatment by her interrogators, was released on bail yesterday by the Ramallah military court.

The presiding judge said Na'ifah Ibrahim Aish, 26, should be released because "she suffered from a difficult and special medical problem whose nature left a deep impression on her, and as a result her physical and emotional condition is not the same as that of a regular detainee." Police have denied Aish was pregnant.

A petition was published yesterday by 140 Israeli women, including Hebrew University professor Galia Golan and educator Alice Shalvi, expressing shock over Aish's treatment and demanding that those responsible be brought to justice.

Aish said that her treatment had improved following press reports of her condition and public activity on her behalf. She claimed that prompt medical treatment would have prevented the miscarriage.

Aish had been arrested last month on suspicion of membership in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. She was held at the Russian Compound lock-up in Jerusalem.

Aish admitted to membership in the DFPLP for three months in 1983, but later denied the confession, saying it was made under duress.

## Marine jailed for rape bid

HAIFA. - An American Marine, Jimmy Kennedy, was sentenced here yesterday to 15 months' imprisonment, and 15 months suspended, for attempting to rape a waitress in a local pub last month.

Passing sentence, the Haifa District Court judges said: "The fact that the waitress-stripper was forthcoming in her attitude towards the American sailor does not justify the attempted rape. The court must uphold the public interest and protect women's honour and bodies from the passion of such a man."

The court said that Kennedy should have been aware of the consequence of his actions. It had been decided to impose a jail term even though it was a first offence.

The waitress, Paula Holloway, from Britain, said she planned to sue the U.S. Marines and would donate any compensation she received to children in need.

During the trial, she pleaded for a lenient sentence for Kennedy. She said after the hearing that "a suspended sentence would have been satisfactory."

## Jail inmate killed in brawl over chicken

BEERSHEBA (Itim). - An inmate at the Beersheba Prison, 27-year-old Abdallah Basah, was given a life sentence by the district court here yesterday for murdering a cellmate in an argument that began over a piece of chicken.

Basah had also argued with the victim, Albert Ben-Haim, over listening to a radio.

HEALTH. - A two-year course in health administration for 25 hospital managers in the territories has been started in Jerusalem by the University of Haifa's extension division.

## Court delay averts converts clash

By HAIM SHAPIRO  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The expected showdown between the High Court of Justice and the Chief Rabbinate over the "Who's a Jew" issue was temporarily averted yesterday, when the court put off a ruling on a petition by two non-Orthodox converts to be registered as Jews.

The two, Julia and Murilo Varela of Kibbutz Mishmar Hanegev were converted in Brazil by a graduate of a Conservative rabbinical seminary. Last month they asked the High Court to order the Interior Ministry to register them as Jews, and a decision was due yesterday.

The Valera petition was the first to raise the conversion issue since December, when the court ordered the ministry to issue Reform convert Shoshana Miller an identity card

listing her as a Jew. Miller left the country after the ruling and never picked up the card.

On Sunday the State Attorney's Office said it would not oppose a court ruling in favour of the Valeras. But Sunday night the office informed their attorney, Yitzhak Ben-Menasse, that an irregularity had been found in the conversion certificate - the Hebrew and Gregorian dates on it did not coincide.

Ben-Menasse argued that the discrepancy was the result of a simple mistake but the court granted the state another 25 days in which to investigate the matter.

As a result of the postponement, the chief rabbis did not issue an expected statement saying that whatever the court ruled, a non-Orthodox convert remained a non-Jew. The rabbis had said on Sunday

that they intended to issue such a statement.

The declaration would almost certainly have increased tension between the religious establishment and the civil authorities to a new pitch. The State Attorney's Office has already asked the police to investigate whether Rabbi Gedalya Axelrod committed contempt of court when he allegedly circulated a petition calling on the Interior Ministry not to obey the High Court's Miller ruling.

Dealing with yet another petition yesterday, the court gave the Interior Ministry 45 days to explain why it should not issue Gail Moscovitch of Kibbutz Gonen an identity card listing her as a Jew. Moscovitch was converted by a Conservative rabbinical court in the U.S. which reportedly included one Orthodox rabbi.

## Zehavi murder trial opens

TEL AVIV (Itim). - Two French policemen testified yesterday at the start of the trial of Gitit Zehavi for the premeditated murder of her husband in January 1986 that she had arrived in Paris the night of the murder carrying French and Greek passports.

The policemen arrested her when she arrived at Orly Airport on suspicion of using false passports.

Zehavi, 38, is charged with murdering her husband Yosef Israelov by driving his car into an artificial lake in the Yarkon Park in Tel Aviv shortly after midnight on January 27, 1986. The motive for the murder was to get her husband's property: two apartments and his rights as a member of the Dan bus cooperative.

According to the charge sheets, Gitit married Yosef in December 1983 and in June 1984, she forged his will with the help of a friend, Yosef Muller. Since the couple's married life was continually stormy, Yosef asked the Tel Aviv rabbinical court on August 27, 1985 to give him a divorce. The accused was then living in London. When she returned to Israel in December, her husband got a court order forbidding her to leave the country. But she slipped out at 2 a.m. before the order reached the airport authorities.

### Dulzin hospitalized

Jewish Agency Executive chairman Aryeh Dulzin yesterday entered Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Zrifin for 24 hours for examination of his kidneys. He started undergoing medical tests last week. (Itim)



Gitit Zehavi in court yesterday. (IPPA)

On the night of the murder, the couple were staying at the Tel Aviv Hilton. Shortly after midnight, they drove to the Yarkon Park where Gitit, says the charge sheet, rolled the car into the lake where her husband was drowned. At 5:30 that morning, she flew to Paris on a false passport, carrying the fake will with her. The two French policemen told the Tel Aviv District Court that when arrested she was carrying fake French and Greek passports.

## Basketball sensation

By DON GOULD

TEL AVIV. - Hapoel Tel Aviv, Cinderella for much of the year, wrote the latest chapter of their remarkable end-of-season comeback story last night when they defeated perennial champions and European Cup hopefuls Maccabi Tel Aviv 77-76 in dramatic fashion. Hapoel go one up in their three-game playoff series for the 1986-7 national title.

It was a case of Hapoel's youthful coach Moshe Weinkrantz upstaging his erstwhile mentor at Maccabi, Zvi Sherf. Hapoel led 45-39 at the half, but Maccabi clawed their way back through fine shooting from Doron Jamchee, and it was a nip and tuck battle all the way.

With only two seconds remaining on the clock, Hapoel were a point in front when Maccabi's Chen Lippin was fouled. He was sent to the foul line and duly tucked away both shots to give Maccabi a single point advantage.

But as Maccabi prepared to exult, they were caught napping when Lavon Mercer threw a long pass upcourt to the waiting Mike Largey who completed the basket to give Hapoel a sensational victory.

## Holiday flights packed

By JONATHAN KARP  
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. - With Pessah and Easter overlapping this year, international flights are almost completely booked up, leaving Israelis scurrying for the few remaining seats.

"Instead of two periods of heavy spring traffic, there will only be one this year," said Eli Messer, Israel manager of Austrian Airlines and chairman of the Panel of Scheduled Airlines. "Tourists coming here for Easter will meet the Israelis who had been vacationing before Pessah."

The heaviest pressure on outbound flights, according to Messer, will be in the last days of March, because Israelis want to start their vacations before airline prices rise by 7 per cent on April 1. Other factors for increased demand during that period include cheap fares to Europe, where Israelis can attend the European Cup final on April 2 in Lausanne or take advantage of late season ski packages.

Even tougher than leaving the country, however, is returning.

"It's almost impossible to get someone on a flight to Israel during the week before Pessah," said Hilary Weiss, a travel agent at Ziontours. She attributed the upsurge in foreign travel this year to the fact that Israelis had become accustomed to paying the NIS 250 travel tax, which she called a "psychological" breakthrough.

An El Al official said yesterday that the vast majority of flights between the end of March and the beginning of May was booked.

## Court upholds expulsion order against fugitive

The interior minister's authority to expel someone from the country was upheld by the High Court of Justice yesterday. The court was ruling on the petition of an Hungarian, Rajio Ratz, who entered Israel illegally in 1983. A year later, he was imprisoned for four years after smuggling a car into the country. While in jail, he met and then married an Israeli woman from Nahalal.

The State Attorney's Office told the court that Ratz is wanted by Interpol for crimes committed in the almost every country of Europe.

The High Court ruled that the minister was within his authority in giving precedence to the public good over that of a private individual, whom he considered a public danger.

Ratz's wife, Noga, is now in her ninth month of pregnancy. After hearing the court's ruling, she burst into tears, saying: "I'm a broken woman. They're destroying my family."

France has asked for Ratz's extradition, but the representative of the State Attorney's Office told the court that Ratz would not be extradited immediately. He would be given several months to settle his family affairs and to seek another country to which he could be expelled.

In another case, a petition made to the High Court by two brothers, aged 11 and 14, moved the interior minister to allow them to enter the country as permanent residents. The minister had previously refused to allow the brothers, who are Christians from Romania, to be reunited with their mother, also a Christian, in Israel.

In their petition, the brothers said that when their mother Rosalia was still living in Romania, she had divorced their father and had then worked as the companion to an aged Jewish woman. Here, Rosalia met the woman's nephew, David Berkowitz, whom she married.

After the marriage, she was given Israeli citizenship by the Law of Return and then tried to bring her two sons to the country. The Romanian authorities agreed to give them an exit visa only if they had an Israeli visa. But the interior minister would only give them a temporary visa, which was not sufficient for the Romanians. The boys then petitioned the High Court and yesterday got their visas. (Itim)

### JACOB TAUBES

February 25, 1923 - March 21, 1987  
"The Just shall live by his faith" (Habakuk 2, 4)  
The burial will take place at 4:30 p.m., March 24, 1987 at the Jewish Cemetery, Friesenbergstrasse, Zurich.  
We request that in lieu of flowers a donation be sent to Neveh Shalom (Bank Hapoalim, Jerusalem Branch 690, bank account Neveh-Shalom 222787).

Aethan and Sally Taubes  
Tania Taubes  
Margherita Von Brentano



## FOREIGN BRIEFS

## Copter crash

MANILA (AP). — Four U.S. servicemen were killed yesterday when their CH-46 helicopter crashed during a training flight in Zamboanga province, 130km. west of Manila, the U.S. Navy announced.

The names of the victims were withheld pending notification of their families. There were no survivors and the cause of the crash has not been determined.

## Bird brings down jet

RAWALPINDI (AP). — A Pakistani air force jet crashed and exploded yesterday, killing the pilot, after colliding with a bird as it was taking part in the annual military parade to mark the country's national day.

A French-made Mirage III fighter slammed into the ground as it approached the Rawalpindi race track, where the parade was under way. A large puff of black smoke could be seen from the parade ground, but the ceremony continued without interruption and few of the spectators appeared to be aware of the crash, which occurred in an open area nearby. Nobody on the ground was hurt.

## PLO message to Mubarak

CAIRO (Reuters). — A senior PLO official arrived here yesterday with a message on recent political developments from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, officials said. The officials said PLO political adviser Hani al-Hassan was to have talks with Foreign Minister Ahmed Esmat Abdel-Maguid. Hassan's arrival came a day after Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein met and reaffirmed their support for the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

## Violent Indian ballots

NEW DELHI, India (AP). — Scattered violence erupted yesterday as voters cast ballots in three state elections — the first major popularity test for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi since his Congress Party's 1984 landslide victories.

The national election commission said more than half of 55 million eligible voters voted in West Bengal, Kashmir and Kerala state assemblies. Voting was described as brisk in most places, but final figures on turnout were not available. Counting was to begin this morning.

## U.S. escort offer

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — The U.S. has offered its warships as escorts for Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Gulf, where they could be threatened by new Iranian anti-ship missiles, U.S. defence officials said yesterday.

The officials also said they believe Kuwait has approached the Soviet Union about the possibility of using Soviet tankers to ship its oil.



The coffin of assassinated Air Force General Licio Giorgieri is carried on a gun carriage in Rome yesterday to his funeral, at which 91-year-old former state president Sandro Pertini collapsed. The coffin, flanked by air force officers with drawn swords and Carabinieri officers in capes, was carried to the church of San Lorenzo Fuori le Mura in Rome. Pertini was standing in the front row of the church when he suddenly fell back into his seat. He was carried out on a stretcher and rushed to hospital, where his condition later was described as 'good.' A splinter group of the leftist Red Brigades terrorist organization has claimed responsibility for Friday's killing of the general, a director of Italy's armaments and space programme, allegedly because of his cooperation with the U.S. in its 'Star Wars' programme. (Reuters)

## Terrorists reprieve French hostage

BEIRUT (Reuters). — French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin, appearing on a video tape released yesterday by his captors, said they had postponed his "death sentence" originally due to be carried out today.

"They have extended my life — I am in good health and well treated," said Normandin on the tape, delivered to an international news agency in Beirut.

He did not say how long the deadline had been deferred. It has been postponed twice before. Normandin, a 35-year-old lighting technician of the French Antenne-2 television station, said his life had been spared due to intercession by Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual mentor of the pro-Iranian Hizbullah (Party of God) and by Greek Catholic Archbishop Hilarion Capucci. Capucci was imprisoned in Israel from 1974 to 1977 for gun-running to the PLO.

Another, apparently pro-Iranian group meanwhile, said a kidnapped American academic was being held by 100 prisoners held by Israel.

"U.S. spy Alann Steen began to suffer from illness. His health might deteriorate and he might die in 10 days," Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine said in a handwritten statement delivered to Beirut's *An-Nahar* newspaper.

"Our humanitarian motives require that we free him for 100 detainees in the (Israeli) occupation jails. So the American administration has to start movement during this period and pressure the Zionist enemy to arrange for the swap," it added in a statement accompanied by a photograph of Steen.



Hostage Normandin as he appeared on video tape. (Reuters)

Also yesterday, the *The Times* of London said that Britain is taking seriously reports that Syria may "stage manage" the release of missing Anglican Church envoy Terry

Israel last night rejected demands by the kidnappers of hostage Alann Steen.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Shamir said that if Steen was "really ill, then his kidnappers should release him immediately, and they should release all their hostages. This matter does not concern in any way the state of Israel."

Waite and western hostages in Lebanon to coincide with a visit to Britain this week by the Saudi Arabian monarch, King Fahd.

A British foreign office spokesman described the report as speculation. The *Times* report said releases could strengthen the king's hand in urging Britain to resume diplomatic relations with Syria.

## Chadians celebrate victory over Libya

N'DJAMENA. — Several thousand cheering Chadians gathered in Independence Square yesterday to mark their support for President Hissene Habre and celebrate the victory of government troops in a battle for the Libyan air base at Ouadi Doum.

The military command reported Sunday night that its troops had ousted the Libyans from the huge base in northern Chad after a brief but extremely violent struggle. The victory was confirmed by the French Defence Ministry.

There were still no details of the battle nor casualty counts but the military command said Libyan losses would be "heavy," given the violence of the fighting over what officials called the "gigantesque and monstrous stronghold constructed by Libya."

The base at Ouadi Doum was built by Libya between 1983 and 1986, was heavily manned and contained both radar and missile installations. It's 3,800-metre runway is capable of handling the largest military transports and the facility was Libya's main supply base for its occupying forces.

Libya's claims it has no troops in Chad and says fighting is between government forces and Chadian rebels. However, the French and the Americans, who back Habre, estimate there are more than 11,000 Libyans in the north, including several thousand at Ouadi Doum.

"Recapture all of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti," chanted the crowd in central N'djamena. Referring to the three provinces that make up the northern half of the country, occupied by Libya since 1973.

The rally was held in the presence of numerous political and military leaders, including Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou, representing the president.

## Possible coup thwarted in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP). — Security forces arrested an assistant superintendent of police and uncovered a cache of weapons in a raid Sunday night, police said yesterday. One security force member was killed.

"The situation is now under control," the government said. Authorities declined initially to call it an attempted coup. The country's two vice presidents both visited the residence where the raid occurred.

A statement released by President Joseph Saidu Momoh's press secretary said members of the armed forces moved to 42 Waterloo Street last night and were met by gunfire when they arrived at the scene. A member of the special security division was shot dead.

After overcoming the resistance, the security force discovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition and arrested a number of men.

Police arrested Assistant Police Superintendent Mohammed Kaikai and his brother during the raid. Kaikai had served as head of the nation's anti-smuggling squad until he was demoted last year.

"Soon, we will liberate Aouzou," said Lassou, referring to a 114,000-square-kilometre strip of territory of unilaterally annexed by Libya in 1973.

Quadi Doum was one of three main Libyan bases in northern Chad. On January 2, loyalist forces captured the oasis of Fada in the northeast. The taking of Ouadi Doum about 7 p.m. Sunday leaves Faya Largeau, the administrative capital of the region, the main Libyan stronghold with a force estimated at several thousand.

The official Libyan news agency Jana quoted rebel forces in Chad as saying they repulsed the attack on Ouadi Doum.

The loss of Ouadi Doum would be a major setback for Libya's Mouammar Gaddafi. It was his main air and ground base for bringing in men and material from Libya to supply northern Chad. That would mean that the garrison at Faya Largeau is cut off from its main supply source.

In Khartoum, meanwhile, Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq al-Mahdi yesterday accused Libya of launching attacks against Chad from Sudanese territory despite his request that it withdraw the troops.

He told parliament that between 700 and 1,000 Libyan troops moved into Sudan's western region last February and his government ordered their withdrawal.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (Mena) quoted him as saying his government had "decided to give the Libyan troops a time-frame in which to withdraw or else." He did not elaborate, the agency said.

Khartoum has also complained to Paris that French jets, helping the Chadian forces, had crossed into Sudan in the past few days. (AP, Reuters)

## Contra leader quits

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP). — The leader of the Nicaraguan rebels' southern fighting force says he is quitting the main Contra umbrella group, charging that a "clique" has seized control of the anti-Sandinista movement. Armando Chamorro, the third major rebel figure in recent weeks to announce his resignation

## Iranian arms dealer to 'expose the liars'

WASHINGTON. — Iranian Arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar says he will testify before Congress on the Arms-to-Iran scandal and reveal "who are the liars and where the money is."

"Everything that was suppressed will come out, from A to Z," Ghorbanifar told *The Washington Times* in an interview yesterday.

Mr. Ghorbanifar did not specify when he would testify before the joint Senate-House panel probing the affair, but said he would tell "what really happened."

It was revealed last week that Ghorbanifar sent private messages to President Reagan through an American journalist, but the White House discounted the value of that information and American officials generally have been sceptical about his reports.

In the interview Ghorbanifar denied he had received any pay-offs in the deal, and said he had in fact lost money and taken great risks to further America's interests.

"All I got in return was to pay \$60,000 in lawyers' fees," he said. "But my turn is coming. Now is the time to talk, and I will have lots more to tell your congressional investigation — they will get the day-by-day chronology that led to the crisis, they will know who are the liars and where the money is."

Ghorbanifar said he had sat in a room in Frankfurt, West Germany, with then U.S. national security aide Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North and Central Intelligence Agency operatives when money changed hands for anti-tank missiles.

Congressional sources said investigators would interview Ghorbanifar in Paris next week. (AFP, Reuters)

## Iraq steps up air offensive

NICOSIA (AP). — Iraq said its warplanes bombed three of Iran's offshore oilfields, as well as the Big Kharg Island oil terminal and a tanker yesterday, escalating an air offensive against Iran's economic lifeline.

Baghdad Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a military spokesman as saying the air blitz began when scores of fighter-bombers hit the Nowrouz field 55 km off the Iranian coast in the northern waters

of the gulf in two raids yesterday morning. It said the oil platforms were "shattered."

Other Iraqi jets carried out two "destructive raids" on the Cyrus field 35 km south of Nowrouz, setting rigs on fire, the radio reported.

Warplanes later attacked the Ardeshir oilfield 16 km south of Nowrouz, "setting targets ablaze," Baghdad reported.

## Thatcher prepares for Moscow

BONN. — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrived here yesterday afternoon from a 90-minute conference with President Francois Mitterrand and immediately began talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, preparatory to her planned visit to Moscow April 1.

A government spokesman here called it a "working visit" in which the two leaders would discuss East-West arms control talks

in Geneva and European security in the light of her coming trip to the USSR.

Earlier in the day Thatcher met with Mitterrand in similar talks in Benouville, outside Caen, in Normandy. Mitterrand later said they also touched on the situation in the Middle East. Thatcher told newsmen the two leaders shared concern for an international peace conference to end Middle East conflicts.

## Yugoslav papers warn against dissent

BELGRADE (Reuters). — Yugoslav newspapers yesterday printed front-page warnings from the prime minister and a top general that troops would be mobilized if widespread unrest threatened the ruling Communist Party.

The four leading Belgrade dailies splashed the text of an interview with Prime Minister Branko Mikulic across their front pages, including his warning that the authorities would use all means, including the army, to crush opposition if it went too far.

The newspapers also carried the text of an interview with deputy defence minister General Milan Deljovic, in

which he warned that the army could not ignore political developments.

Western diplomats said that both interviews seemed to be indirect warnings that the regime would not allow unrest to get out of hand.

The warnings came in the wake of nationwide strikes over a wages freeze and amid a growing wave of political dissent in this Communist and non-aligned country of 23 million people.

"They have made this a message for every Yugoslav," a veteran Yugoslav political analyst said.

## Lisbon, Peking agree on Macao's return

## China will get gambling centre in 1999

MACAO. — Macao was calm yesterday after an accord was announced in Peking between China and Portugal that hands the tiny gambling centre back to China in 1999, ending more than 400 years of rule by Lisbon.

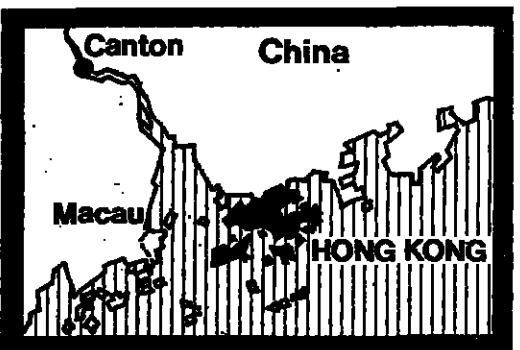
Shops and offices were open and people went about their business as usual in the tiny Portuguese-run territory on the South China coast.

Gamblers crowded bacarrat and black-jack tables at casinos, placing their bets and seemingly unconcerned over the news. "I don't care what they decide. All I want is the doors to the casinos to stay open," said a gambler peering over his cards.

The announcement was anti-climactic as many residents had expected an accord since talks on Macao's future began between Lisbon and Peking last June.

The two sides said in a joint communique that the heads of the negotiating teams on Thursday would initial an agreement.

Portuguese Ambassador to Peking Octavio Valerio told reporters after the fourth and final round of talks that China would take over Macao



on December 20, 1999. Asked how the tricky question of the future nationality of the 80,000 to 100,000 residents of Macao entitled to Portuguese citizenship had been settled, Valerio said only: "That's very complicated."

Informed Portuguese sources have said Lisbon wanted them to have dual nationality, but Chinese law prohibits its citizens from holding dual nationality.

Macao's 15.5 square kilometres are home to an estimated 500,000 people, 98 per cent of them of Chinese stock.

Portugal has ruled Macao since 1557. But in 1979 it was declared Chinese territory under Portuguese administration.

The agreement means Macao will return to Chinese rule two and a half years after the neighbouring British colony of Hong Kong.

Portugal had already recognized Peking's sovereignty over Macao and is believed to have offered to hand it over on two previous occasions. A Chinese Catholic priest who fled China after the Communist revolution in 1949 said he was nervous over the power transfer.

"I'm afraid what is said now may not be implemented. My previous experience (with the Communists) leads me to be suspicious of the future," he said.

The Portuguese appeared indifferent over the agreement.

Monday's press coverage in Lisbon was limited to short paragraphs. And even the country's radio stations and television channels offered a dry account of the negotiations. (Reuters, AFP)

## Welcome to the Eighth Life Insurance Convention Jerusalem 1987



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הוועד המאגיד של סוכני הביטוח

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## Three women, aged 55-60, on waiting list for ova implantation

## Motherhood over 50 now a reality

By JUDY SIEGEL

Post Science and Health Reporter

Three women between the ages 55 and 60 are on the waiting list at Sheba Hospital for the implantation of donated ova — a process that has produced babies in five younger but sterile women and which can theoretically result in pregnancies in menopausal women.

This was disclosed by Prof. David Serr, director of obstetrics and gynecology at Sheba, Tel Hashomer, at the International Conference on Childbearing and Perinatal Care. The conference opened in Jerusalem yesterday, and will continue for three more days.

Serr said the Health Ministry has not yet renewed its authorization for the donated-egg programme, which operated for two years, because it wants to consider the implications of donated ova. A number of babies were born at Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem, to women who went into menopause prematurely in their 20s or 30s because of hormonal problems or to women who could never become pregnant because they lack ovaries.

The rabbinical authorities, according to Serr, did not object to the procedure because the women who donated the eggs — later fertilized by the sperm of the recipient's husband — were

unmarried.

Serr says that younger women would get preference if the programme is reactivated. But much older women could also have babies, at least theoretically, if younger but sterile women were able to get pregnant.

He noted that there were some psychological problems among the recipients after they delivered babies. The "ghost" of the woman who donated the egg remained with the mother, who often dreamed about the anonymous "parent."

The Sheba professor showed a rare and astonishing video film produced at the hospital of a therapeutic abortion being performed on a seven-week-old fetus. The "five" action shows the fetus, with its heartbeat clearly visible, "struggling" to remain attached to the lining of the womb, and the doctor having to literally cut the fetus out with his instruments.

The film, made possible by ultrasound devices, was shown to gynecologists, many of whom were "deeply affected" by the sight. A number of women who had applied for abortions for non-medical reasons decided to have their babies after seeing the film.

Prof. Serr told *The Jerusalem Post* that he is not anti-abortion, and that he has turned down right-to-life groups who wanted to use the film for their propaganda. He insists that

physicians must not take abortions "lightly" and must "realize exactly what they are doing."

He and researchers from the hospital and Tel Aviv University are using the video segment to make a major film on childbirth and all the medical and ethical issues related to it, including surrogate motherhood. It will be offered to TV stations when it is finished.

The international conference, at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel opened with greetings from Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almosino and the chairman, Prof. Zvi Palti of Hadassah.

Dr. Ann Oakley, of the University of London Institute of Education, gave a broad survey of childbearing, and the changing "fashions" regarding hospital vs. home births, and "natural" vs. technologically assisted births. While noting that it was important not to force women to give birth with techniques that are convenient merely to their doctors, she added that the long-term effects of "natural" and "home-birth" techniques should also be studied to see if they are good for the babies and their mothers.

Oakley said some women undergo ultrasound and amniocentesis when there is no need for it, and get their pregnancies confirmed by ultrasound rather than simple lab tests.

## Israeli growth hormone

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

HAIFA. — An Israeli-developed, genetically-engineered synthetic growth hormone, has produced encouraging results.

In experimental administration of the drug to 100 growth-retarded children in the U.S. and Israel, their growth rate increased from their abnormally low rate of two to four centimetres per year, to seven to 12 cms. This is even more than the normal five to seven cms. for children aged four to 12. Dr. Ze'ev Hochberg, of Rambam Hospital's children's endocrinology unit, told a group of physicians last week.

The tests have been conducted for the past year in 11 university hospitals in the U.S. and four medical centres in Israel — Hadassah Ein Karem, Soroka in Beersheba, Kaplan in Rehovot, and Rambam.

The drug was developed by scientists of the General Biotechnology company of Rehovot, which was founded by Weizmann Institute scientists. Before the tests on the dwarfish children were undertaken, it had been tested on animals and normal-sized adult volunteers. Its use on humans has been approved both by the Health Ministry and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the U.S.

So far, no side effects have been observed. A companion psychological study of the children in the experiment showed positive effects on their motivation, *joie de vivre*, and self-esteem.

Professor Marian Grotzky, in charge of research of the Rehovot company, said the drug will be considerably cheaper than the cost of hormones from human glands.



Prince Louis Ferdinand, grandson of the last German kaiser and head of the former royal family of Prussia, views a bronze bust of Theodor Herzl by sculptor Lily Zouaf in the foyer of the University of Haifa. The prince has just completed a week-long visit to Israel as guest of the university, during which a chair was established for the study of the activities of Christian settlers here in the 19th century. Prince Ferdinand headed a group of Germans interested in setting up such a chair. His grandfather, Kaiser Wilhelm, visited Israel in 1898 and Herzl appealed to him to help set up a Jewish state here under the aegis of the German empire. The kaiser withdrew his support after the Ottoman sultan told him he was firmly opposed to the establishment of a Jewish homeland on Turkish territory.

(Photo: Arik Baltinester)

## Taba team to consult foreign experts

The Israeli officials charged with preparing Israel's case in the arbitration over the disputed Taba zone, south of Eilat are to meet in Jerusalem with foreign experts assisting on the case tomorrow to finalize the Israeli brief.

The brief must be submitted to the arbitration panel in Geneva in a few

days' time.

The foreign experts assisting on the case include Cambridge law professor Eli Lauterpacht and veteran journalist Jon Kimche, as well as a noted British expert on old maps.

The material to be submitted by Israel to the arbitrators in Geneva includes a relief model of Taba.

## Nitpicking over the (West Bank)

Post Diplomatic Correspondent

A Foreign Ministry briefing paper referring to Judea and Samaria as "the West Bank," albeit in brackets, and stating that "Jewish settlement policy in the Israeli-administered territories has undergone a very clear change," prompted Minister without Portfolio Yosef Shapira to tackle Vice Premier Peres in the cabinet on Sunday.

Shapira was a top-level spokesman for Gush Emunim settlers while he still belonged to the now extinct Morasha faction, and today he is a settler spokesman in the national Religious Party.

In his reply, Peres said that Israel used the term "West Bank" in the Camp David agreements with Egypt, and it was now used along-side Judea and Samaria, in the briefing paper of the Foreign Ministry's information division, so that English readers would understand what was being written about.

Peres told Shapira that too much attention had been devoted to the pamphlet by its critics, and baseless interpretations had been attached to the use of the term "West Bank."

Prime Minister Shamir said it was neither the time nor the place to hold a debate on the language of the information background. However, he stressed, Israel should always avoid using the term "West Bank."

## Safad cemetery repairs

The Safad cemetery, which is in bad condition because of earthquakes and landslides, is to be improved by the IDF chaplaincy corps. The Religious Affairs Ministry announced yesterday that it would pay for the work on the centuries-old burial ground where a number of noted scholars, rabbis and mystics are buried.

## KATSAV

(Continued from Page One)

existing camps (of Ariel Sharon, David Levy and Moshe Arens) and that together they are supported by less than 50 per cent of the delegates to the convention.

"If the camps had any ideological basis, then maybe their existence could be justified," said Katsav. "But it is all to do with personal power struggles. A party which is based on factions is bound to collapse."

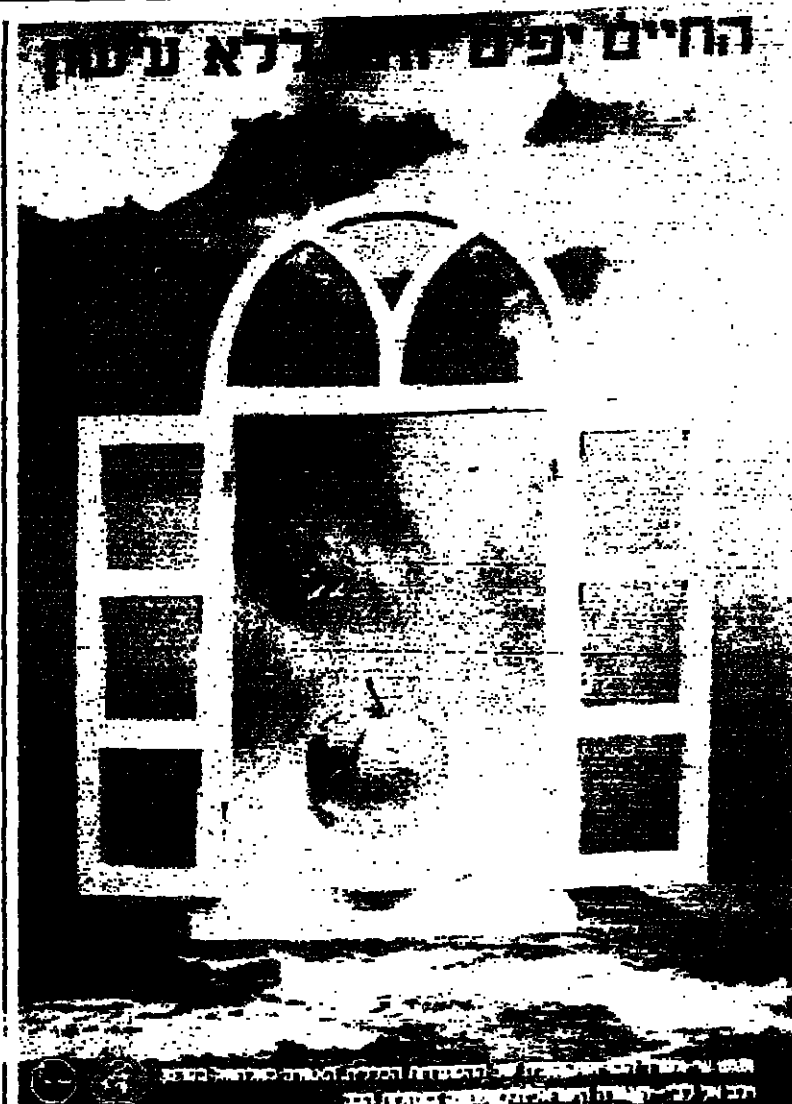
The minister carefully chose his words before saying: "I've heard Prime Minister Shamir speak out forcefully against the camps. But it took years for them to be created and it will take years for them to disappear."

"As long as Herut has its current leadership, the camps will continue to exist. I hope that after Sunday's convention their influence will decrease."

After Sunday, he said, the voter will be able to decide. "If the predictions of the pessimists are borne out, then we will have nothing to show to the voters. If the optimists turn out to be right, then we will be able to say that we have overcome an unpleasant but passing episode. I myself am not a pessimist, but I am not an optimist either," he said.

Katsav will count his blessings if the Herut convention ends peacefully, even if it will be, as he predicts, "very difficult and stormy." The past year has been very hard for him, he said and his task as convention organizer has placed him in constant "conflicts and confrontations."

Asked if he will be expected to organize another convention in the future, Katsav sighed and said "Thank god, no. On Sunday we will choose a chairman of the Party, and he will have to break his head" to find someone else to do the job.



'Life is more beautiful without smoking' declares this poster issued by the Health Ministry, the Histadrut's Kapat Holim Clalit, the Israel Cancer Society and Israel Heart Disease Society on the occasion of the World Health Organization's International Health Day. (Richard Novick)

## Polling smoking habits in government service

By JUDY SIEGEL  
Post Science and Health Reporter

If you work for the income tax or customs authorities you are almost twice as likely to be a smoker than if you work for the Housing and Health ministries, a new survey has disclosed.

The Health Ministry, which advocates a ban on smoking in all workplaces except for restricted areas, has polled over 2,000 government employees on their smoking habits and attitudes. The ministry now aims to poll nearly 30,000 other employees in private industry and other public institutions. It plans to issue its findings in six months.

The ministry's poll of government workers shows that 31.2 per cent of those in the income tax authority and 30.9 per cent of those in customs are smokers. This compares to 14.7 per cent in the Health Ministry, 16.2 per cent each in the Trade and Housing ministries and 18.3 per cent in the Justice Ministry.

About 75 per cent of all of the government employees said smoking bothers them at work. The figure is 80 per cent for non-smokers.

According to the Health Ministry, since legislation was passed three years ago banning smoking in buses, hospital rooms and other public places, smoking has decreased from

36 per cent to 29 per cent among the population at large. But 30 per cent of teenagers and 50 per cent of soldiers still smoke.

International Health Day is being observed in Israel today on the theme of giving up smoking and promoting the rights of non-smokers to breathe clean air.

Open phone lines staffed by experts will counsel smokers on how to kick the habit or help friends or relatives to stop smoking.

The numbers are: Jerusalem — 636261, 661881; Tel Aviv — 250361, 268218; Haifa — 381411, 381412, and Beersheba — 957291.

Free medical checkups will be offered today at the Lung Exam Centre in Rehov Hovevei Zion 16, Tel Aviv, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Scouts will hand out informational material on how to stop smoking.

An open line for Arabic speakers will operate today (661881, Jerusalem).

In addition, municipal inspectors will increase their checks to ensure that there is no smoking in public places where it is illegal.

A "no smoking day" will also be observed in the Israel Defence Forces.

The Health Minister says she will pursue "to the very end" her intention to restrict smoking in workplaces. (See Health Scan, Page 6)

## Nicotine to blame for cancer spread

SAN DIEGO (AP). — A new study has found that nicotine seems to promote the spread of cancer throughout the body, and people who already have the disease should be encouraged to stay away from tobacco to improve their odds of surviving.

The study finds preliminary evidence that nicotine, the addictive drug in cigarettes, disrupts one of the body's built-in defences against cancer's spread, and raises questions about long-term use of nicotine gum to break the smoking habit.

Although smoking is a recognized cause of cancer, many experts believe it is some of the other ingredients of cigarette smoke rather than nicotine that causes the disease. A tumour frequently is not fatal unless it spreads, and the new data suggest that nicotine adds to the damage by helping this to happen.

## Pacific area rabbis bow to Orthodox authority

By DAVID LANDAU  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent  
HONGKONG. — Orthodox Judaism notched up a minor victory in this unlikely venue here yesterday when rabbis from around the Pacific region resolved to subordinate themselves halachically to the (Orthodox) Melbourne and Sydney Batei din (rabbinical courts).

The rabbis, from such far off communities as Singapore and Tokyo, decided to submit all their conversions and divorces to these ecclesiastical courts for halachic endorsement.

Meeting under the auspices of the Asia Pacific Jewish Association, the rabbis founded their own rabbinic fraternity and said it would be open to all members agreeing to accept the authority of the Australian Batei din.

Said Rabbi Michael Schudrich of

Tokyo, a graduate of the (Conservative) Jewish Theological Seminary: "I care about my converts. I want them to be recognized internationally." He was confident that his own teaching programme for would-be converts would meet the requirements of the Australian Batei din.

Rabbi Isaac Ben Zakim of Singapore, Meir Bensoussan of Hongkong, Schudrich of Tokyo and other regional rabbis present conceded that by no means all of their congregants were Orthodox.

A number of APJA communities — among them Bangkok, Taiwan, New Caledonia and Singapore — issued a call to Jewishly knowledgeable students or graduates in larger communities to come to the region for six months or a year of service with the communities, especially with their youth.

The First Pierre Gildesgame C.B.E.  
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BARNETT NEWMAN —  
THE UGLY DUCKLING

By David Sylvester C.B.E.

Moderator: Fred Worme, Chairman of the Trustees of the Pierre Gildesgame Maccabi Museum

Closing Remarks:

SHLOMO LAHAT, Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, at 8:00 p.m.  
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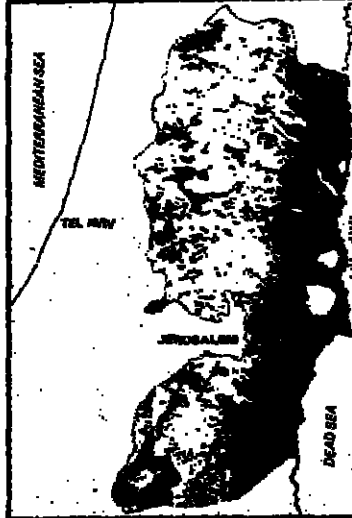
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# Sorry, no jobs

By ALYSE FISHER

AMID speculations that Soviet authorities may grant exit visas to large numbers of refuseniks, Soviet Jewry activists in Israel have stated that large-scale immigration will present severe employment problems for Soviet Jews, magnifying the currently ineffective absorption process.

While activists have stressed the urgency of improving the job situation, especially in the event of an increase in the present emigration rate of approximately 150 per month (of whom about 20 per cent come to Israel), disagreements between the Absorption Ministry, the Jewish Agency Aliya Department and Soviet Jewry interest groups over how to solve these problems have confounded attempts to counteract employment hardships.

Lea Slovin, in charge of Soviet immigration for the Jewish Agency Aliya Department, said that if and when the number of refuseniks coming to Israel rises, there simply will not be enough job openings for the immigrants.

She said that the Aliya Department had proposed a national project to help change the employment infrastructure to suit the training of immigrants.

The Aliya Department's proposal envisions the creation of an inter-institutional network which would provide support for government-initiated projects to create jobs. But Slovin said there was no government support for the project. Instead, she said, the Absorption Ministry had its

own proposal. The ministry suggests that the services of industrial psychologists be used to close the gap between the expectation of immigrants and the Israeli reality.

Slovin expressed her frustration over the policy-making stalemate, citing absorption meetings to which government officials were invited, but did not show up. She assailed the exclusion of the Jewish Agency in absorption policy-making.

Tatila Godrov, of the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Centre, stressed the need to improve the second-rate job search and retraining techniques. She stressed that the government has failed to meet the challenge to match the needs of Soviet immigrants - especially those with high-level specializations - with the demands of the job market.

The problem, she said, is that a Soviet immigrant with specialized technical training must describe his job to an employment agency clerk who writes up his curriculum vitae.

"This document presents the potential employee to the Israeli employers, yet is written up by a clerk who has no understanding of the field. That presentation will in-

variably be incorrect," she said.

An immigrant with a particular technical vocation might find himself in an industry which is either unrelated to his field or does not utilize his specialization.

What then happens, Godrov said, is that they wait for friends or other colleagues who can help them get a more suitable position - the phenomenon of *protektzia*.

Ephraim Feinblum, chairman of the Federation of Soviet Jews in Israel, said that the feature of *protektzia* in Soviet immigrant employment is not necessarily negative, however, considering that the government employment agency does not always have good information on jobs available. He added that immigrants helping immigrants was not *protektzia*.

Feinblum has formulated an immigrant law proposal in which he suggests a revamping of the absorption process and its benefits. Absorption must be improved first and foremost, he said. The government shouldn't be putting its focus on terminating the status of "political refugee" given to Soviet immigrants in the U.S.

Feinblum, along with other Soviet Jewry activists, points to employment as the major factor in successful absorption. He said that the Soviet mentality designates career success as the most important life goal. Slovin commented that failure to obtain a respectable position is thought of as catastrophic.

Along with improvements in benefits for pension-age immigrants, housing and monetary benefits, Feinblum's law proposal suggests that the state be required to find a job for at least one person in a family, he said.

He calls for a unified effort between the government, the Histadrut and individual cities in helping to employ the Soviet immigrants.

In addition to the two major problems of an ineffective job search process and a job market which is underdeveloped for Soviet immigrant needs, there is also an urgent need for retraining techniques, according to the activists.

Godrov said that a high number of Soviet immigrants come with advanced training in technical fields and that the majority only need slight retraining to enter the Israeli market.

She claimed that the next highest percentage of immigrants come with training in the humanitarian fields, and that they face bigger problems: Teachers need major retraining, and economists, for example, cannot fit in at all.

## What about the 'bearers of secrets'?

Martin Gilbert

FOUR YEARS ago, sitting in an apartment in Moscow, I remember vividly the unpleasant impression, amounting to fear, which came over the two refuseniks in the room with me (both of whose husbands were then prisoners) when a friend telephoned them to say that the Moscow newspaper *Vechernaya Moskva* had just published an article denouncing those Jews who received visitors from the West.

According to the article, these "so-called tourists" had in fact been sent to the Soviet Union by "foreign intelligence." Behind them, so it was alleged, stood first and foremost the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, misusing the Helsinki Agreement by infiltrating these tourists in order to recruit agents "among renegades and corrupt individuals who are outcasts from Soviet society - who have not found a place in our Soviet family."

The article went on to give several examples of these outcasts. Most of them were dissidents or war-time collaborators with the Nazis. Two, however, were refuseniks, Anatoly Sharansky - then less than halfway through his 13-year sentence - and his friend Vladimir Slepak, at that time only recently released after five years of Siberian exile. According to the article, Slepak, although then in Moscow, was still a "Zionist agent" working on behalf of the Israeli secret service.

This article in *Vechernaya Moskva* represented not the mere private opinion of the writer, but official policy. Just over a month ago, this same newspaper struck a blow at refusenik hopes when, on February 12, it published a special boxed article giving the names of eight Jews who, it said, "as bearers of State and military secrets," would never leave the Soviet Union.

One of those named in the list, Natasha Khassina, had complemented Ida Nudel's role as a lifeline of moral support for the prisoners and their families. Another of the eight, Lev Sud, whom I met in Leningrad in August 1985, is a religious Jew, whose brother-in-law lives in Jerusalem. A third of the eight, Vladimir Slepak, the same Slepak described as a traitor four years before, has now been refused his exit visa for 17 years. From Friday, March 27, Slepak's son Alexander will begin a 17-day hunger-strike in Washington in protest against his father's 17 years in refusal.

Year after year, Slepak has watched as one by one his friends have been allowed to leave the Soviet Union. But not all his friends: another of those singled out by *Vechernaya Moskva* was Professor Alexander Lerner, who first applied to live in Israel within a year of Slepak's application. I feel a strong personal link with Professor Lerner, whom I also met in Moscow in August 1985, and to whom I dedicated my recent book *The Holocaust, the Jewish Tragedy*.

Professor Lerner's two daughters were murdered by the Nazis on Soviet soil in 1941. Now, at the age of 73, he is a widower, whose only surviving daughter lives in Israel. Commenting on the article of February 12, Professor Lerner said: "I have rarely been quite so angry as when I saw the boxed announcement in the paper. While, for some of us it was the first written reason for our refusal, and to that extent welcome, it was nevertheless a gross distortion of reality." Lerner added, of the so-called secrecy classification: "It is clear that for all of us such categorization is bureaucratic lunacy, or plain vindictiveness. To publish things like that caused all of us deep distress. It is humiliating mental cruelty."

Another of those named in the Moscow newspaper is Yuli Kosharovskiy, a Hebrew teacher of distinction and a man of great charm and courage. Like Professor Lerner, he first applied to leave the Soviet Union in 1971. His three children have spent all their life as refuseniks. His wife Inna has dreamed of bringing them up in Israel.

Soon it will be Passover. Last Passover, Kosharovskiy wrote to me: "Year after year the desert dispersed us all over the world. And some go through the red devil. And still, our hearts beat as one, when we think and re-enact the Exodus." As for the Jews of Russia, he added, "Sometimes I have a feeling that we are just crossing the



Vladimir Slepak



Alexander Lerner

Red Sea now. Quite dangerous. But when we see our friends on the other side, giving us your hands, we understand that we will pass over."

Kosharovskiy was 29 years old when, on 10 March 1971, he first applied for his exit visa. Like Lerner and Slepak, he was refused on secrecy grounds, even though, as long ago as 1974, he was told that the secrecy restriction no longer applied in his case. When he received his second refusal, now 13 years ago, he was told that it was a "punishment" because he had become an activist.

Yuli Kosharovskiy is now 45. His many friends in Israel and the West can only ask, in the name of whatever new winds are blowing in the Soviet Union, that his family, together with seven other families named in the demoralizing article of February 12 can be allowed to leave as soon as possible. If they have to remain refuseniks, what meaning can there be in all the talk of a new exodus?

## News calendar



The Brailovsky family - are they about to get visas? (Louis Rapoport)

Compiled by Enid Wurtman from reports received by the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry, the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Centre, the London newsletter "Jews in the USSR," the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, Israel Action, and other sources in the Soviet Union, Israel, England and the U.S. The dates indicate when the reports were received.

### MARCH 8

Vladimir Brauda, a Vitebsk religious activist, recounted recent acts of harassment to which he has been subjected. On February 27, he was called to the local prosecutor's office and informed that a criminal case has been opened against him on the charge of "embezzlement of public property." He had been threatened with this fabricated charge throughout 1986. His refusal to collaborate with the KGB is seen as the reason behind the authorities' action.

Leonid Kelbert, a refusenik since 1979, finds himself in a double-bind: If he informs his employer that he is applying for an exit visa, he will promptly be fired; but he has also been warned by Leningrad OVIR (emigration office) officials that his application will not be accepted if he has no place of employment. His former wife has tried to influence their grown son not to provide an essential document (which Leonid needs for his visa application), stating that he has no financial claims pending against his father.

Mikhail Belzer, protesting against a recent refusal for an exit visa, completed his first week of a work strike, which he viewed as an "act of despair." He cabled Soviet officials decrying the "lawless attitude of OVIR." Subsequently, he was fired from work due to absenteeism, despite an excellent work record over the past nine years.

His 10-year-old son, Alexander, who lives in Israel, has sent a letter to Margaret Thatcher, (who will meet Mikhail Gorbachev later this week in Moscow): "I haven't seen my father for seven years. He lives in Leningrad and has been a refusenik for seven years. Could you please ask Mr. Gorbachev to permit my father to come to Israel? I want to be like the rest of my friends who see their fathers and play with them. Please help me!"

### MARCH 10

Refusenik women in Moscow, Erevan, Riga, Tallin, Leningrad, Gorky and Vilnius concluded a three-day hunger strike today, initiated on International Women's day. They protested against "the illegal and senseless, prolonged and unjust detention of our families in the USSR."

During the course of the hunger strike, women gathered in the homes of refuseniks at the home of Yehudat Ratner Bialy, Ludmila Shrayver, Inna Upenkaya, Victoria Khassina in Moscow and at the home of Vera Sheiba in Leningrad. In Riga refusenik women gathered at the home of Raisa Gansarnik. They were visited by Soviet journalists, who later attacked the refusenik women in the Soviet press for "show fasting."

In an immediate reply to the accusations, the women retorted that their protest arose from more than a decade of their own victimization and suffering. They had been asked to be patient during this period of "perestroika" (reconstruction), the women said, but "we have been patient for more than 10 years, some of us for 15 years... Surely that has to be enough!"

Among the scores of refusenik women participating in the hunger strike were: Mara Abramovich, Ada Lvovskaya, Rimma Yakir, Natalia Rozenshteyn, Tatiana Ulanovskaya, Ella Kagan, Marina Fuchs Rabinovitch, Yanna Berenshteyn, Fanya Berenshteyn, Oksana Kholmiansky, Krina Matlin, Ida Tarasova, Elena Dubianskaya, Rosa Ioffe, Helen Seidel Mai, Frada Melamed, and Rimma Sosa.

### MARCH 10

Amid growing concern for 49-year-old Prisoner of Zion Yosef Berenshteyn, who suffers from diabetes and severe eye problems after an attack by criminal inmates, there has been a proliferation of appeals on his behalf. Over 170 Soviet Jews from Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Odessa, Vilnius, Erevan, Riga, Kuibyshev

and Chmelnytsky sent an appeal to Edgar Bronfman, the president of the World Jewish Congress, saying that the Berenshteyn family, refuseniks since 1979, devoted themselves to studying, and then teaching, Hebrew and Jewish culture.

"Their home in Kiev was one of the few centres where Jews gathered to celebrate our holidays, to learn the history and the traditions of our people."

In 1984 Berenshteyn was arrested on trumped-up charges of "resisting the police" in the execution of their duty, but in reality he was punished for his desire to immigrate to Israel, the statement said. "His labour camp conditions have irreparably damaged his health. Today we speak of a real threat to his life." In light of Bronfman's forthcoming journey to the Soviet Union, the refuseniks urged him to use his influence to save Berenshteyn.

### MARCH 11

Former Prisoner of Zion Victor Brailovsky and his family were told to re-apply for exit visas. He had requested a one-month visa to visit his aged father in Israel. In a declaration today, Brailovsky, 52, a cyberneticist, wrote: "This year is a jubilee year for our family: 15 years ago my wife and I lost our jobs and since then we have not worked in our professions. The reason given for our refusal was based on the conclusion of the Moscow State University, reached in 1972, ascribing to Irina's knowledge of state secrets. This decision was reconsidered in 1978, when a special commission led by the Rector of the University, Professor Anatoly Logunov, concluded that Irina had never been connected with state secrets. Nevertheless, refusals persisted on the same grounds year after year... During these years, I served a five-year sentence in prison and internal exile for my desire to emigrate to Israel. My son Leonid, who was 11 when we first applied to emigrate, is now a 26-year-old married man. He has spent his whole conscious life in refusal and experienced all the 'charms' of this life. My daughter, Dalia, was born in refusal and is now 13 years old."

"My 80-year-old father, who is seriously ill, lives in Israel. I want to see him again while he is still in this world. Our family has now, once again, turned to the Soviet authorities with an appeal to manifest that humanity and new political thinking about which it is now so stylish to talk in the USSR, and to grant us, finally, the possibility to reunite with our relatives in Israel."

Victor's brother, Mikhail Brailovsky, has lived in Israel since 1976. Last May, Irina, a mathematician, was summoned to OVIR and was told that their refusal was valid until 1995.

### MARCH 12

In Moscow, Andrei Rabinerson has been trying since 1979 to be reunited with his only daughter, Luba Malkin (wife of former Prisoner of Zion Natan (Anatoly) Malkin). His five grandsons, whom he has never seen, were all born in Jerusalem.

In the 1950s, when an anti-Semitic campaign raged in Russia, Rabinerson was expelled from the Leningrad Polytechnical Institute. He went to study at the Leningrad Refrigerator Institute, graduating as an engineer. He was sent to work in Sverdlovsk, where he met and married Tanya Gural. Their only daughter, Luba, was born in 1957. Andrei's wife died in 1959, and Luba was raised by her maternal grandmother and her mother's aunt, who lived in Moscow. Andrei moved to Moscow to be near his daughter, and worked in the Theoretical Physics Institute, where he completed his Ph.D. thesis. Later he worked at the Moscow Research Institute for Energy Studies. Rabinerson first applied for an exit visa in 1981 to be reunited with his daughter, but has repeatedly been refused permission. Write to: USSR, B. Cherkizovskaya 4, korpus 3, apt. 20, Rabinerson, Andrei.

### MARCH 15

Purim was joyfully celebrated in the homes of at least eight refuseniks today in Moscow, with readings of the Megilat Esther, and the performance of Purim spools. At one gathering, some 100 Soviet Jews crowded into one tiny flat. In addition, there were three children's performances to mark Purim. In Leningrad, 60 refuseniks gathered at the home of Anna Lifshitz to celebrate the holiday, and promised to repeat the celebration for her husband, Vladimir Lifshitz, a Prisoner of Zion, who was about to be freed.

Recently released Prisoner of Zion Roald (Gaila) Zefchenok, 50, and his wife, Gaila, have re-applied for exit visas. He is still being denied a "propiska" (residence permit). His health suffered greatly in prison, where he was denied proper medical attention. His friends have organized private medical care for him in order that he can be at least provided with anti-hypertensive medication for his dangerously high blood pressure. Alik calls officials daily to inquire about his residence permit. In appeals to OVIR, he writes: "Here nobody needs us. There, in Israel, our friends and relatives are waiting for us."

### MARCH 16

Today, Vladimir Lifshitz was released from labour camp in Kamchatka, in the remotest eastern regions of Siberia. A snow storm prevented him from leaving immediately, but on the following day, he flew to Moscow, and then travelled by train to Leningrad to be reunited with his wife, Anna and daughter, Masha. Lifshitz, 45, a mathematician, was arrested on January 8, 1986, and sentenced to three years in a labour camp on charges of "slandering of the Soviet regime."

Upon his return, he expressed his happiness at being home with his family and gratitude to all those who actively cared about his fate. He expressed concern for the other Prisoners of Zion who remained imprisoned. He was very concerned about his son, Boris, who was punatively drafted and is currently hospitalized for duodenal ulcers at his army base.

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rew teacher, who has been a Prisoner of Zion for a year, was once again placed in a punishment cell in isolation for 14 days in his labour camp in the Omsk region. He was arrested on March 14, 1986, falsely charged with "possession and dissemination of drugs."

### MARCH 19

Prisoners of Zion Mark Nepomniaschy, 55, and his son-in-law, Ya'acov Levit, 27, were released today from labour camp in the Crimean region of the Ukraine. Both men were serving three-year terms for "anti-Soviet slander."

They will return home to Odessa. Nellie Sapezerman, a refusenik since 1977, was informed today by Leningrad OVIR that she and her husband Yuri, were granted exit visas to Israel.

In the 15th day of their hunger strike, long-term refuseniks Inna and Lev Elbert (a former Prisoner of Zion) plan to continue until "departure or death."

The Elberts hope to receive a reply from the Deputy Chief of the Consular Department of the Foreign Ministry, Makarov, in Moscow. When they met with Makarov at the beginning of their hunger strike, they showed him an official letter from the Soviet army stating that the army is not opposed to Lev's departure, and emphasized personal appeals made in their behalf by Carl Albert and Senator Alan Cranston to Soviet officials. Inna's mother, Kira Mizrahim, who lives in Israel, has appealed to members of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War for their support.

Write to: USSR, Ukrainian SSR, Kiev, ul. Marshala Budenn 090, 30, apt. 11, Elbert, Inna and Lev.

### MARCH 20

Leonid (Eliezer) Yusefovich, leader of the Israel citizenship movement, demonstrated in Pushkin Square today, the second day of his protest, with placards bearing the slogans: "I HAVE NO SECRECY" and "LET US GO TO ISRAEL." Leonid was joined today in his protest in Moscow by former Prisoner of Zion Boris Chernobitsky.

Leonid Volvitsky has been freed, the fourth Prisoner of Zion released this week. Ari, as he is known by his friends, phoned a friend in Moscow, Natasha Rainer Magarik, from Yakutsk at noon today, announcing his freedom and that he was about to buy a place ticket to Moscow. A computer scientist, Volvitsky, 44, first applied for an exit visa to Israel in 1974 with his wife, Mila, and daughter, Kira.

In the first 19 days of March, 257 Soviet Jews reached Vienna.

Recent, permissions have been granted to Leningrad refuseniks: Boris and Margarita Elkin, in refusal since 1981; Sarah and Daniel Freedkin, who first applied for exit visas in 1972; Margarita and Boris Deviatov; Olga and Anatoly Chechik, refuseniks since 1980; Vera and Mark Katz; Sonya and Pavel Astrakhan, refuseniks since 1972. Also receiving visas were Moscow refuseniks Naina and David Kvarint, who first applied for exit visas in 1979; and Lilia and Mikhail Marlbov, refuseniks since 1979.

## New arrivals

Mikhail Dinaburg and his wife Alona Khassina, the authors of an angry Open Letter to the Soviet Presidium which ran in *The Jerusalem Post* several months ago, together with a commentary by Natan Sharansky, arrived in Israel last week after a long and bitter struggle for exit visas.

Alona's parents are among the leaders of the Soviet Jewish emigration movement. Her mother, Natasha Khassina, has been a constant target of KGB surveillance and harassment.

Alona Khassina, 23, who is expecting the couple's second child "at any moment," said that she will not stop struggling until her parents are allowed to join her in Israel.

Mikhail Dinaburg, an electrician, and his wife, a practical nurse, said that they wished to thank all those who helped them to leave the USSR, and expressed the hope that efforts on behalf of her parents would be intensified.

## Don't demand rescinding of refugee status

Excerpts of an appeal by a group of Zionist activists among Russian Jews in Israel that was sent to Israeli and world Zionist leaders.

In February 1987 the government of Israel appealed to the American administration to abolish the status of refugees granted to Soviet Jews leaving the USSR.

We, the undersigned, call upon the government of Israel to renounce this demand.

We believe that abolition of the refugee status requested by the Israeli government not only would not reduce *nechira* but will undermine the idea of Zionism and the democratic image of our country in the eyes of the Soviet Jews who are trying to win. The possible result of this may be still greater dropout figures, or eventual termination of Jewish emigration from the USSR.

Similar concern was already expressed in the 1976 appeal of a group of Zionists signed by more than 3,000 people - aliya activists, scientists, Prisoners of Zion, engineers, doctors, etc.

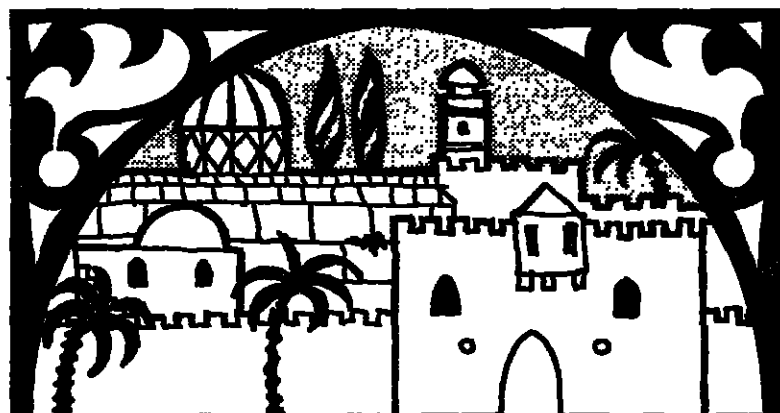
Israel is looking forward to the Jewish exodus from Russia in the near future. If the heroic struggle of Jews striving to leave the USSR with the support of the Jewry in the free world turns out to be successful, then we, Zionists of various persuasions will be faced with the question how to bring to Israel these Jews emerging from Soviet captivity.

The only way to achieve this, to our mind, is to create in this country conditions that will enable us to attract and absorb large aliya from Russia and other countries.

Extending help to Jews in Communist countries who wish to leave concerns not only the immediate interests of the State of Israel. This help is consistent with the thoroughly humanitarian background of Judaism - recognition of the unity of Jews to help extensively a community in danger...

Over 300 activists signed this appeal, including Ruth Alexandrovich, Leonid Sharansky, David Hazkin, Yosef Horol, Lev Roitbrud, Yosef Mendeleovich, Mark Natshtiz, Sylvia Zalmanson, Mikhail Grobman, A. Gogan, Dina and Josef Beilin and Yuri Shern.

The Soviet Jewry page, which appears fortnightly, is edited by Louis Rapoport



## CONGRATULATIONS JERUSALEM!

A competition celebrating the 20th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification (May 27, 1987)

Readers of The Jerusalem Post are invited to participate in CONGRATULATIONS JERUSALEM - an international competition co-sponsored by The Jerusalem Post and the Moriah Jerusalem Hotel. To enter, submit a written, visual or other expression that congratulates Jerusalem on the 20th anniversary of its reunification.

**TWO FIRST PRIZES** (one for readers in Israel, one for readers overseas): A week for two, bed and breakfast, at the Moriah Jerusalem Hotel (the overseas winner will also win one round-trip ticket - departing from New York or major European cities - courtesy of the Moriah Jerusalem Hotel).

**TWO SECOND PRIZES**: A six-month subscription or extension to The Jerusalem Post (for winners in Israel) and a one year subscription or extension to The Jerusalem Post International Edition (overseas winner).

**TWO THIRD PRIZES** (one Israeli, one overseas): A copy of Front Page Israel 1932-1986, a volume of historical front pages of The Jerusalem Post.

### CONTEST RULES

- 1) One entry per contestant will be accepted.
- 2) All entries must be mailed to CONGRATULATIONS JERUSALEM, the Moriah Jerusalem Hotel, 39 Karen Hayasod St., Jerusalem 94188, Israel. Contestants are responsible for shipping and handling.
- 3) Entries must be received by the Moriah Jerusalem not later than April 15, 1987.
- 4) Prize winners will be chosen by jury, on the basis of originality and creativity.
- 5) Entries will not be returned. A selection will be given to the mayor of the city.
- 6) Employees and their families of The Jerusalem Post and Moriah Hotels Israel are not eligible.

MORIAH JERUSALEM HOTEL THE JERUSALEM POST



AMERICAN WOMEN have more and better jobs today than ever before, but many remain stuck in low-paying occupations, a new government study reports.

The future of working women "is uncertain and remains a challenge to the American economic, political and social systems and to women themselves," concludes the new census bureau study, *Women in the American Economy*, released earlier this month.

The study says the reasons for the continuing economic problems of women are complex and not easily measured. Among them are the pressures of family responsibility, social conditioning, education that differ from those of men, and discrimination by men, who do most of the hiring and promoting.

Women today "are better educated, have joined the labour force in greater proportions, and have better jobs, yet the economic problems of women persist within an overall pattern of change and transi-

## Low pay, better work

Randolph E. Schmid  
Washington

tion," the report said.

The median income of women working full time in 1984 was 15,600 dollars, compared with \$24,004 for men, the study said.

That meant that women earned 64 per cent of men's income — up from 59 per cent in 1970, but, the study warned, that is a statistic that is often misinterpreted.

Median income is affected by the fact that many women are concentrated in relatively low-paying jobs. And things are changing. For

people aged 18 to 24, the ratio of female to male income was 88 per cent in 1984, up from 76 per cent in 1980, "an indication of significant improvements in the wage gap among younger workers over a short time period."

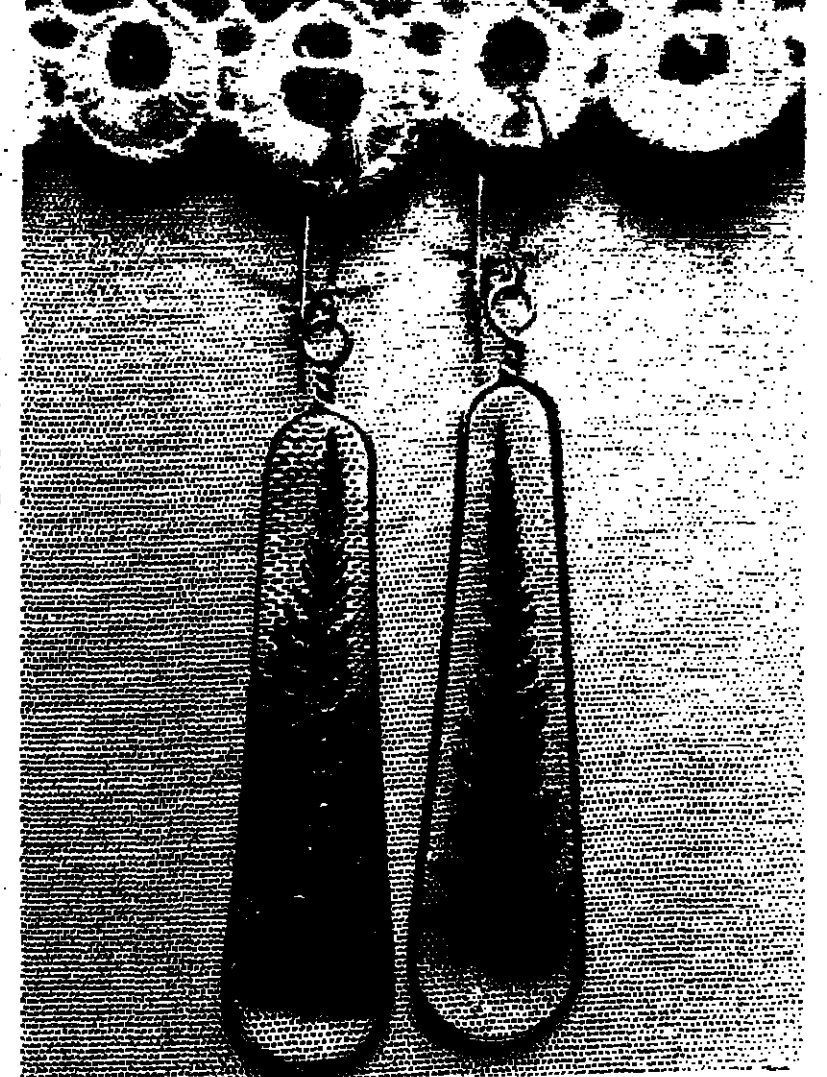
The study noted that women have joined the work force in record numbers, but at the same time "there has been no discernible reduction in (their) household and family responsibilities."

The Bureau of Labour Statistics projects that by 1995 women aged 25 to 54 will have labour force participation rates of between 78 per cent and 82 per cent, accounting for two-thirds of the growth in the work force over the next decade.

But "even though women have made progress in entering occupations predominantly held by men in the past... the majority of women are still in the traditional 'female' occupations and the actual number of women in higher-paying jobs is relatively small." (Associated Press)



Embellished shell earrings at Beautiful Waters (above); nature-in-plastic by Pnuel (right); outside browsers making the rounds (below).



## HASHARON

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RAIN, HAIL or shine, you can find Jerusalem's new generation of street peddlars along the Ben-Yehuda mall, on certain sections of Jaffa Road, and on Fridays, in the underground shopping centre on King George Street known as The Cellar.

The common denominator which sellers in these areas all have is jewelry. Some hawk inexpensive, imported commercial lines; others design and manufacture their own. Some have been trained as artisans, others have produced do-it-yourself designs with intriguing results. All are making their marks in determining what's on the hands, in the ears and around the necks of city residents.

In The Cellar, there's Cinzia Pnuel from Italy who dries flowers and stores them for posterity in plastic casings fashioned into earrings, bracelets, pendants and rings — at a reasonable NIS 5-12.

Then there's former kibbutznik

## Fashion takes to the streets

Greer Fay Cashman and photographer Lisa Pleskow go jewelry hunting in the City of Gold

Tirza Cohen, who started making creative plastic jewelry — which looks like ceramics — only a year ago for those with more exotic tastes. The average price is around NIS 10.

Schoolgirl Yael Doron, 17, has always had an interest in braiding and beading, and she creates intricate and colourful bracelets and

necklaces. In summer, she sells along the Ben-Yehuda mall; in winter, she prefers the warmth of The Cellar.

Out of all the stall-holders and peddlars, Avishai Havivi, 33, is perhaps the most professional. A gemologist, geologist and gem-cutter, Havivi produces jewelry

from precious and semi-precious stones, which he has cut himself, in metal settings.

Havivi, who sells at bazaars and fairs all over Israel has been in the jewelry game for 18 years. He can tell you the history and source of every stone in his possession.

The Beautiful Waters shop is the only permanent jewelry store in The Cellar, operating every day, which gives it an advantage over the once-a-week peddlars. The proprietors are American immigrants who sell costume jewelry and items made from fresh water pearls or semi-precious stones. They also offer a good selection of items for children.

Adornment is "in" and can be achieved effectively with a minimum of financial outlay. No wonder spring is bringing with it such an enthusiastic turn-out of street peddlars: there are already customers waiting in line.

## Today is No Smoking Day



Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

more than non-smokers, according to surveys.

In addition, insurance premiums taken out by employers for smoking employees are up to seven times more expensive than those for non-smokers. The damage to furniture and carpets from burning matches and dropped ash is also considerable.

ACCORDING to reports from Peking, two million Chinese will die from lung cancer due to smoking every year by 2025 if nothing is done to curb the habit. Yet, despite that startling pronouncement by health officials, China plans to produce even more tobacco for its estimated 250 million smokers.

Taxes levied on the thriving tobacco industry bring in a fortune to Chinese government coffers and have caused the authorities to ignore the health dangers for years. Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping is also known to be a heavy smoker, as was Mao Tse-Tung.

The health authorities, however, have urged cigarette manufacturers to produce "less poisonous" cigarettes and starting this year, the cigarette companies must indicate the tar content of their products on the packets.

OLD PEOPLE and others with physical limitations are demanding the installation of lower steps in local buses, as are common in Europe and the U.S.

David Re'em, director of

Hameshakem, which hires handicapped and elderly workers, wrote the Transport Ministry asking for mandatory lower steps at the entrance and exit doors of buses.

Getting in and out of a bus can mean pain and suffering for an old or handicapped person, Re'em said.

HUNDREDS of callers used the open-line of Kupat Holim Clalit last week to ask about diabetes. Experts were asked a large variety of questions.

Some of the facts about diabetes included: great tension can bring about an onset of the disease; dryness in the mouth can be an early symptom; diabetes can cause damage to vision; and diabetes that appears during pregnancy is usually short-lived but the woman's diet should be watched.

SKIN CANCER was classified for the first time here as being a "work accident," and the National Insurance Institute was instructed by the Haifa district labour court to compensate a worker for it.

The case involved a car mechanic who worked for 30 years in the sun without protection. He developed skin cancer and retired at the age of 65. A medical expert testified that the cancer was connected to his exposure to the sun.

MORE THAN 200 more drugs have been produced that are kosher for Passover this year, with rabbinical certificates from the Beit-Din Tzedek of the ultra-Orthodox Eda Haredit in Jerusalem.

Rafa, the organization for "Medicine in Accordance with Halacha," was in close consultation with drug manufacturers to ensure that vital medicines be produced without leavening.

Resprim and Moxypen, two drugs given commonly to children, have been added to the kosher-for-Passah list. The problem was not in the potent drug itself but in the syrup, which was previously flavoured with leavened ingredients.

## Catering to the non-meat gourmet

THE COUNTRY's leading producers of vegetarian meat substitutes are now aiming for the "gourmet" market, Desi Kaplan, director general of Tivoli, told a press conference in Jerusalem recently.

The press conference, held in the Off the Square restaurant, included a generous sampling of dishes made with the product which Tivoli prefers to call "structured vegetable protein," marketed as frankfurters, hamburgers, schnitzel and something the producers call "chopped Tivol."

"Does it really taste like meat?" asked a fellow journalist who turned vegetarian 20 years ago. Well, it did, and then again it didn't.

Starting from the bottom, the frankfurters tasted like one of the cheaper brands of meat hot dogs. They had the same rather mushy consistency and lack of a distinctive taste.

The schnitzel, said to be the "hit" of the Tivoli products, was somewhat better, although the main texture seemed to come from the breaded exterior, with the interior lacking

Haim Shapiro

even the solidity of an extruded meat product.

The problem of texture seemed to have been solved with the hamburgers, which were generally tasty and, if anything, probably better than most of the prepared meat hamburgers on the market. They were served with melted cheese, a vegetarian cheeseburger being one of the favourite items of the restaurant's young religious clients.

Perhaps the best of the lot was the "chopped Tivol," served as a meat loaf and in two forms of "mousaka," French and Hungarian. The chopped vegetarian product went well with eggplant preparations and the addition of some onion or garlic was evidently enough to give it a taste similar to meat. One suspects that the product would be good in virtually any dish using chopped meat — stuffed vegetables, for instance.

However, the price is high; as veteran vegetarians at the press conference complained, Kaplan claimed that the raw products were expensive and Tivoli uses no artificial colours or preservatives.

The target market consists primarily of vegetarians and observant Jews who can eat it with dairy or parve meals. Its potential in the kosher catering field seems largely untapped, especially in view of the declared intention of capturing the "vegetarian gourmet" market.

Among the more intriguing items in a recipe booklet distributed by Tivoli were Oriental rissoles, with sour cream and olives and a "Reuben sandwich."

**Oriental Rissoles**

½ cup crushed corn flakes or Bisi grill flavour,  
½ container sour cream,  
1 beaten egg,  
4-5 tbs. chopped pitted olives,  
2 tbs. hot ketchup,  
1 tbs. chopped parsley,  
2 fried chopped onions,  
250 gm. chopped Tivol.

salt and pepper to taste,

oil.  
Mix all the ingredients in a bowl and bake in an oiled loaf tin at medium temperature for 25 to 30 minutes.

**Reuben Sandwiches**

4 Tivol hamburgers,  
1 tbs. oil,  
1 finely chopped green pepper,  
2 tbs. ketchup,  
1 tsp. white horseradish,  
1½ cups drained sauerkraut,  
1 tsp. caraway seeds,  
4 slices Tal Haemek cheese,  
4 hamburger buns.

Fry the hamburgers in the oil, remove from the pan and keep warm. Fry the peppers in the same pan until browned. Remove from heat and add ketchup, horseradish, sauerkraut and caraway seeds. Mix well. Serve the hamburgers on toasted buns with the sauerkraut mixture, topped with a slice of cheese.







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LONDON (Reuters). — Opec is quietly easing itself back into the driver's seat.

Market experts say that, if the cartel can continue to exert the rare self-discipline it has shown in recent weeks on oil pricing and production, the 1990s might see it back again as an unchallenged arbiter of world energy prices.

Since early February, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has succeeded in restraining production by most of its 13 members so as to tighten a surplus-laden market.

As a result, it has been able to buoy prices at around \$18 a barrel — about 20 per cent up on late last year.

Previous Opec attempts to mandate output curbs and fix prices since the start of a glut early in this decade have often failed, as cash-pinned sellers broke quotas and made discounts. Prices fell as low as \$9 last summer. Indeed, the glut that has humbled Opec is blamed by many independent analysts and some Opec leaders largely on the "oil shocks" administered in the 1970s.

Raising prices above \$30, Opec

## Opec learns how to rule the market

# No more oil shocks

forced the West to conserve oil. Cars, homes and industrial boilers were made more energy-efficient. The U.S. economy, for instance, has expanded since the 1973 Arab oil embargo, but uses less energy.

So Opec output is now down below 16 million barrels of oil a day, about half what it was at the end of the seventies.

But the new tactic of moderate prices may reverse the trend. Lower oil prices encourage consumption, remove an incentive to spend money on conserving energy and make it uneconomical to tap non-Opec petroleum deposits where extraction costs are high.

The U.S. Department of Energy told President Reagan in a report mid-March that the changed outlook for oil posed "certain economic and security risks" from the U.S. viewpoint.

It looked at two scenarios. One saw steady price rises to \$28 by 1995, the other envisaged \$15 oil until 1990, then a rise to \$23 by the mid-1990s.

Both showed a decline in U.S. and North Sea output, while world demand grew moderately. The result? The world would depend on Opec for 45 to 60 per cent of its oil by 1995, more than half of it from the Persian Gulf.

The report also expressed concern that "wars, revolutions or other events in the Middle East could disrupt oil supplies."

Such independent market experts as Michael Unsworth at London Brokers Smith New Court agree that Opec may be able to reassert a dominant role.

"I think it will, if it can keep the price on the low side for the next few years," Unsworth said. "At \$30 it

could not get back. But at \$18 we will see declining non-Opec production, especially in the U.S., and demand rising by about one to 1.5 per cent a year."

Unsworth thought that Opec had "learned its lesson." If it did regain its old supremacy, it would try to avoid any new shocks because "if they let prices run ahead too far, they destroy the demand outlook."

Projections by the West's International Energy Agency (IEA) suggest that Opec may indeed need to take care. The IEA said on March 10 that, just using existing technology, industrial nations could, if pushed, make their economies 30 per cent more energy-efficient by the end of the century than now.

But market experts share U.S. jitters about the volatility of the Middle East.

There never was any real shortage in the second Opec oil shock in 1979. Prices were bid up in a mad scramble by refiners to build up petroleum stocks, simply out of their fear that Iran's revolution might disrupt supplies.

## BANKING ON IT/Pinhas Landau

# The Leumi family

The three small, independently managed commercial banking subsidiaries Bank Leumi has under its wing, provide as fine a study in contrasts as could be hoped for in assessing the advantages and disadvantages of this sector as a whole. But before examining them individually, it is worth noting that Leumi proper absorbed a long list of small banks in the 1960s and early 1970s, when Israeli banking was going through its main concentration phase.

Thus, a number of the *cause celebres* of those years — including Feuchtwanger, Ellem, Agudat Yisrael and Credit banks — were all swallowed up directly into the emerging Leumi colossus after their difficulties left them no choice. Other small outfits, like Kupat Am, were bought out from their original owners when their *raison d'être* disappeared.

Very often this latter development was linked to the melting-pot process. Many of the small banks' clientele belonged to particular ethnic groups that merged into the general population.

## Talking of Aliyah-Leumi makes Bank Leumi official Yedidia Greenberg uncomfortable, because the unit's future is not clear.

One case where an ethnic bank was not merged into Leumi proper was the former Bank Kupat Aliyah, now Bank Aliyah-Leumi. Founded by and for immigrants from Bulgaria, it was one of the last of its genre to cede its independence. Even then it was not entirely, since its former owners did not withdraw completely after selling control to Leumi, and some of them are still on the board. Today it exists as a regular commercial bank, offering pretty well full services. The only question is why?

Leumi Senior Assistant General Manager Yedidia Greenberg is in charge of the bank's control of and co-ordination with its subsidiaries. Talking of Aliyah-Leumi makes him uncomfortable, because the unit's future is not clear. What is indisputable is that the bank has shrunk dramatically in the last few years, way beyond its relative share of the general contraction in size that has taken place in the group. At the end of 1982, it numbered 18 branches with 270 staff, but the end of last year Aliyah-Leumi was down to 11 branches and 170 staff.

In recent months there have been press reports that Leumi intends to merge the whole unit into the parent bank, i.e. eliminate it. Rumours — admittedly from outside Leumi — have it that Leumi wants to sell the bank, with its valuable licence the key attraction. Greenberg, however, would not respond to such reports and admits only that Aliyah-Leumi's fate is under discussion.

A quite different state of affairs pertains to the Arab-Israel Bank. Here, too, the reason for the bank's existence is plainly ethnic, but the demographic and other factors involved point to its further growth rather than its gradual demise.

The bank has operated as an independent unit within the Leumi group for many years, with its target as the Israeli-Arab communities, especially in the Galilee and the "Small Triangle" areas. Although Leumi operates its own branches in these parts of the country, the group's primary presence is via Arab-Israel. In fact, Greenberg suggests, if the group thins out the number of branches as part of the general reduction in branches nationwide, this will probably be done by having fewer Leumi branches in mainly-Arab areas, rather than by shrinking the size of

Arab-Israel. So far, the subsidiary has been barely touched by Leumi's "dieting" since 1983. From end-1982 figures of 33 branches with 232 staff, there was only a 6 per cent drop in four years, to the 31 branches and 220 personnel in the bank at the end of 1986.

Why have a separate bank? Greenberg says that there is ample commercial rationale for this strategy. The mainly rural, and far less sophisticated public that the bank deals with is one factor, but language and culture are even more potent considerations, he believes. By having a separate bank, Leumi has been able to draw the local communities much more closely into the operations. Ownership is entirely in Leumi's hands, and a former senior executive, Gershon Kadar, is chairman of the board and Greenberg's deputy. Yeshayahu Spivak, is the board and Greenberg's deputy. Yeshayahu Spivak, is the board and Greenberg's deputy. Yeshayahu Spivak, is the board and Greenberg's deputy.

Finally, in terms of the Leumi group, we come to Union Bank, which published a remarkably good financial statement for 1986 at the end of last week. The figures, which showed a rise of over one-third in gross profits — although higher taxes caused net profits to shrink — drove home in the most powerful manner possible the effectiveness of Union as a specialist bank — the biggest, and probably the most successful of its kind.

In size, Union is twice as big as Barclays and three-quarters of the size of First International — although in terms of the Leumi group as a whole it amounts to only 6-7 per cent. It is a full subsidiary, although it has long been registered on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in its own right, and the public therefore has (or used to have) a unit in the bank shares became government bonds, a minority equity stake. It has always been shown as, first and foremost, a prime mover in the diamond industry, and since the withdrawal of Barclays Discount from the diamond-financing business, it has become absolutely dominant.

Its fortunes therefore reflect those of the industry it serves. It grew very rapidly in the boom years until 1981 and then suffered losses and declining business when the slump came. In 1985 things began to pick up again, but last year's diamond-industry surge helped to separate it from the rest of the pack. In a year when almost every bank saw profits fall, Union achieved a major increase in the most important figure of them all — pre-tax operating profits. In addition, in fact as a result of the diamond-orientation it acquired, the bank became a specialist in two other fields — foreign currency trading and securities activities. With the renewal of happy days on the Tel Aviv exchange, Union should be able to boost this element of its revenues.

The deliberate channelling of the important diamond business through a separate entity has several advantages for Leumi. The effects of the boom/bust cycle in diamonds, which runs quite separately from the rest of the economy, are factored out and do not affect the parent's overall performance. More important, the expertise and experience necessary for the industry's bankers are concentrated in a pool, which facilitates both their development and dissemination.

The question about Union is whether it diluted its strong points by over-expansion. It has a limited, but still significant nationwide presence, with 25 branches, hardly changed from the 27 of 1982. Its work-force, however, has been slashed by one-quarter in the last four years, to stand at 900 at the end of 1986. In an environment in which the general banks are shrinking, specialist banks like Union can probably grow only by strengthening their fields of expertise, not by seeking to compete with the giants.

The second article in a series.

## Breathing life into the Dead Sea

By GREER FAY CASHMAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Most of the 1,500 hotel rooms bordering the Dead Sea and in nearby Arad are full. But the Austrians, West Germans, and Scandinavians, whose health insurance schemes include therapeutic treatment abroad, are only coming to take advantage of the healing properties of the sun, the water and the black Dead Sea mud.

So if things are going so well, what's the point of the Dead Sea Festival? The 12-day event will include 70 events open free of charge to anyone who happens to be in the area beginning today and running until April 4. Festival director Avinoam Hadas, 35, says the fair is aimed at changing the image of the Dead Sea from that of a health spa to a full fledged resort area.

That can't be done by the mere addition of more hotel buildings. What the Dead Sea area needs is a change of pace. "People lie in the sun all day or bathe in the sea," says Hadas. "But by sundown, they're bored out of their minds. There are hardly any restaurants outside the hotels and there are no night-time activities."

This is sufficiently horrendous for anyone who comes for only a week, but the average stay of those who come from abroad for therapy is 28



days. And their ailments, usually severe skin diseases, are usually not the kind which require peace and quiet. The people who come to the Dead Sea for health reasons can act as envoys for encouraging further tourism. "If we breathe some life into the Dead Sea," says Hadas, "the next time around they'll bring members of their families and talk friends into coming."

Relying on word-of-mouth won't be enough. The festival, which includes singing, dancing, sporting events and competitions will be videotaped and distributed to Israel Government Tourist Offices abroad to show to potential tourists.

The budget for the festival is only just over \$100,000 — a sum which doesn't go far in the world of tourism. But Hadas says many aspects of

the festival do not require financial outlay, in addition to which a lot of organizations and individuals are helping along in a voluntary capacity.

It's important to get this message across says Hadas, because few of the foreign visitors to the Dead Sea ever get to see the rest of the country. "When they think of Israel, they think of the Dead Sea."

The first in what he hopes will be an ongoing series of Dead Sea festivals, will not be overly spectacular, he concedes, but insists the low-key impact is deliberate. For one thing, Hadas says he doesn't want to create a hard act to follow. For another, he reasons that there is no need to aim too high. "When people are bored, anything you give them by way of diversion is terrific."

## Cigarette factory still on hold

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA — An offer to import a complete cigarette factory made last November during the Dabek Ltd. shut-down, is still waiting for approval from the Industry and Trade Ministry.

"We are still ready to go, as soon as the government gives us the green light. But the plans are rolled up in the bureaucracy," the entrepreneur behind the project, Zakharia Freilich, told The Jerusalem Post last week.

Freilich, owner of a publicity firm and a cigarette importer, said the factory, now in the Netherlands, could process up to 200 tons of tobacco monthly to make 200 million cigarettes, about 40 per cent of Dabek's output.

"I believe we could corner 20 per cent of the market for a start," and thus break the Dabek monopoly. "We will be able to offer a cheaper smoke because we intend to be much more efficient than Dabek."

At the time of the offer, Industry Minister Ariel Sharon welcomed the idea and promised to give it due consideration to break up the Dabek monopoly.

The group of investors Freilich represents are ready to sink \$4 million into the venture, which will provide 100 jobs.

## GENERAL ASSISTANCE

### EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Romem 523191; Bateam, Salah Edin, 727215; Shu'afat, Shu'afat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058; Tel Aviv: Hakriya, 19 Ibn Givoli, 204850; SuperPharm, 40 Einstein, Ramat Aviv, 415730.  
Haifa: Kfar Sava: Kupat Holim, 45 Ben-Gurion, Kfar Sava.  
Netanya: Geva, 14 Shear Hagel, 22695; Krayot: Haifa: Motzkin, 64 Sderot Hashchirim, Krayot Motzkin, 737243; Haifa: Hadas, 83 Horev, 252214.

### DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Shaare Zedek (pediatrics, surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology), Bikur Holim (internal, obstetrics, E.N.T.).  
Tel Aviv: Rokah (pediatrics), Ichilov (internal, surgery).  
Netanya: Laniado

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Ashdod 41333 Jerusalem 523133  
Ashdod 23333 Krayot 344444  
Bat Yam 5511111 Krayot Shmora 4434  
Bnei Shimon 74767 Netanya 523333  
Carmiel 928555 Netanya 523333  
Dim Ragon 7811111 Petah Tikva 9231111  
Eilat 7233 Rehovot 451333  
Hadera 22333 Rishon LeZion 92333  
Haifa 512233 Safed 30333  
Hetzor 36333 Tel Aviv 240111  
Holon 803133 Tiberies 90711

\* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Emergency - Emergency Time Aid, Tel. Jerusalem 227171, Tel. Aviv 261111 (children); youth: 03-261113, Haifa 672222, Gornbeim 418111, Netanya 35316, Carmiel and the north 04-889410.

Red Cross Centre (24 hours), for help call Ramat 234818, Jerusalem - 245354, and Haifa 362611.

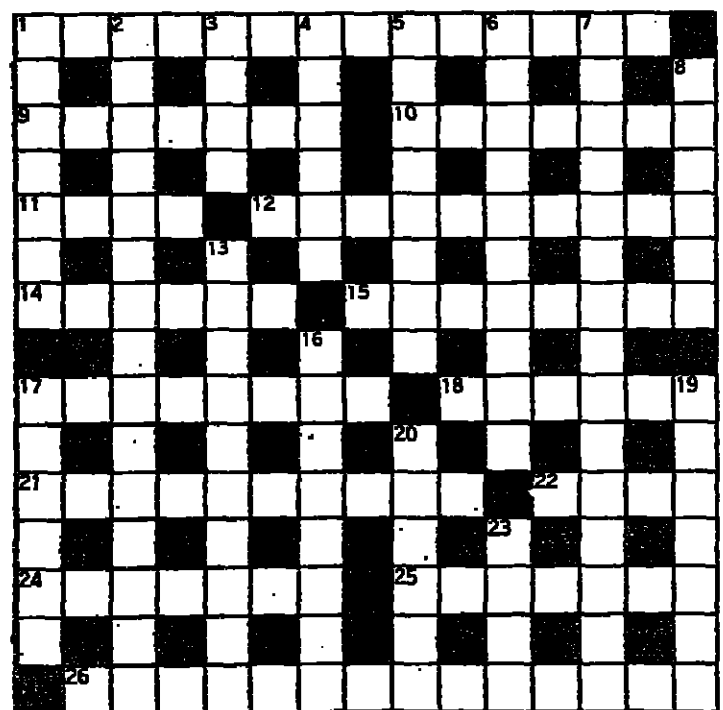
The National Police Control Centre at Ramat Hashanah, phone (04) 529205, for emergency calls, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.  
Kupat Holim Information Centre Tel. 03-433300, 433500 Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- It should give visitors from abroad value for money (4,2,8)
  - Withdraw because of lumbar trouble? (4,3)
  - A particular kind of sceptre (7)
  - How anglers bring in small river fish? (4)
  - A deep freeze that could send up the electricity bill (4,6)
  - Trojan bully... (6)
  - Slav felled with a mighty blow (4,4)
  - All-round temporary accommodation for the campanologist? (4-4)
  - Material for a broadcast about a hundred odd trips? (6)

- DOWN**
- A fresh start in life (7)
  - Railway official fined for persistent parking offences? (6-9)
  - Empty honour for a woodwind player (4)
  - Distinctly an advantage if one wants to be an announcer (5,5)
  - Star, for example, in Virginia (4)
  - The last of the Spanish ring-masters? (7)
  - The agony of men in the wrong? (7)
  - Famous British film fight that didn't last long? (5,9)

- 4 Get in some gin, perhaps (6)**  
**5 Red car of new design clearly not neglected (5,3)**  
**6 A habit that will keep one dry (10)**  
**7 What Gulliver's arrival caused in Brobdingnag? (5,10)**  
**8 Kept out of Dorset (6)**  
**13 Superior type of pedestrian crossing (10)**  
**16 Going the right way to benefit from a series of lectures? (2,6)**  
**17 Suit to change into (6)**  
**19 A characteristic alternative for the renegade (7)**  
**20 Vineyard expert with twitch to face (6)**  
**23 A fur remodelled for a continental spouse (4)**

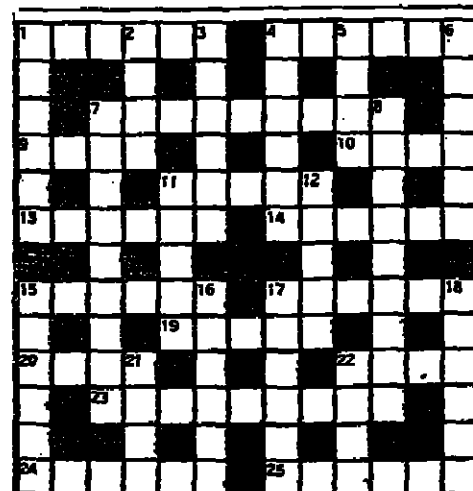


Yesterday's Solution

ACROSS: 1. Flaxen, 4. Hared, 8. Rogue, 9. Routine, 10. Solicit, 11. Team, 12. Hat, 14. Isis, 15. Wood, 18. Ego, 21. Rely, 22. Militia, 25. Banging, 26. Gloss, 27. Dishy, 28. Street.

DOWN: 1. Forest, 2. Angelus, 3. Exercise, 4. Baul, 5. Raise, 6. Dreamt, 7. Broth, 13. Twilight, 16. Outcome, 17. Orchid, 19. Omega, 20. Basset, 22. Links, 24. Tlay.

## QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- High regard
  - Pairing
  - Unduly early
  - Misfortunes
  - Sea eagle
  - Single-masted vessel
  - Domain
  - Pine leaf
  - Combat
  - Stationary
  - Void
  - Knot
  - Cry of bitterness
  - Effusion
  - Savours
  - Choose

- DOWN**
- Lure
  - Strays
  - Speak indistinctly
  - Movement
  - Vetch
  - Mourner
  - Trike remark
  - Learning
  - Not fresh
  - Trivial
  - Brigand
  - Corrects
  - Standing
  - Perpetrate
  - Seed forth
  - Basin

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# Dismal year at Discount

By PINHAS LANDAU

Post Economics Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Net profit at Israel Discount Bank, the country's third-largest banking group, plunged 94 per cent last year to NIS 2.4 million from an inflation-adjusted NIS 40.2m. in 1985, the bank reported at a press conference here yesterday.

Even this small profit stemmed from the achievements of the bank's subsidiaries and affiliates. Israel Discount Bank of New York posted a \$12.2 million profit, Barclays Discount, earnings of NIS 9.4m., of which half accrues to Discount; and First International, in which Discount has a 30 per cent stake. Without these, the bank would have shown an NIS 11.9m. after-tax loss - despite having made only NIS 1.7m. in pre-tax profits.

The vagaries of the Israeli tax system resulted in Discount paying NIS 13.6m. in taxes, or eight times its gross profits.

At the Beit Sokolow press conference where Discount Chairman Joseph Ciechanover and Chief Executive Officer Gideon Lahav reviewed the group's financial statements, the extent of the deterioration in the bank's performance so shocked the assembled reporters that questioning, normally aggressively pointed, was perfunctory and dealt mainly with minor details.

Only the subject of executive pay aroused any passions. In this regard Ciechanover revealed that Discount directors received salaries of \$5,000 a year plus \$250 expenses per board meeting. Ciechanover, himself said he received a monthly salary of \$6,700.

The average gross salary of the top 10 executives in the bank was NIS 9,600 a month, leaving them with slightly over NIS 4,000 per month net, he said. In addition, Ciechanover said, they received a company car and had their phone expenses covered by the bank. He was unwilling to give exact details of the differentials between these top 10 officials,

and Lahav declined to reveal his salary.

The focus of the chairman and the CEO's remarks was the background to the 1986 results, which Ciechanover admitted were "impossible to be satisfied with." The decline in the groups' balance sheet total, some 9 per cent from NIS 20.8 billion to NIS 18.8b., was primarily the outcome of the erosion of dollar-denominated assets in inflation-adjusted terms. That reflected the freeze in the shekel/dollar exchange rate in 1986, while inflation ran at 20 per cent.

The 6 per cent decline in the group's capital base, from NIS 726m. to NIS 684m. stemmed from the currency discrepancy and the effect it had - in accounting terms - on the capital invested in Israel Discount Bank of New York. Ciechanover said. This left the bank with a capital/assets ratio of 3.6 per cent, low by international standards, but fractionally improved over last year.

The sharp fall in pre-tax profit was the result of the narrowing of profit margins in the course of 1986 and the failure of the government to allow commission rates to be adjusted upwards, Ciechanover said. Group pre-tax profit fell 50 per cent to NIS 52.4m., while Discount's own profit was almost entirely eliminated, slumping 96 per cent to NIS 1.7 million last year.

Finally, the tax system hit the bank hard, because it still allowed taxation of what were effectively nominal profits.

However, Ciechanover stressed that responsibility for the results rested solely with the board and the management. He also admitted that the pressure to introduce efficiency measures was justified to a large extent, but he did not believe that this was synonymous with firing staff and reducing operations.

At the same time, he highlighted Discount's current offer to its personnel under which those prepared to voluntarily leave their jobs by the end of this month would receive

redundancy pay of up to 175 per cent, compared with the regular 100 per cent. To date, over 1,000 workers had expressed interest and 200 had already begun the formalities of leaving, he said, and many more would make their final decision in the coming week.

Discount had earlier announced its determination to reduce its workforce 15 per cent, from its present level of 5,800.

Discount was sticking to its policy of emphasis on automation, in which it was a market leader, the chairman noted, as a cost-saving and service-improving strategy.

Both executives dwelt on the two main positive developments in the bank's business over the last year, which were reflected in the balance sheet. One of these was the growth in total loans to the public by 5 per cent, in which the dominant area was unlinked shekel loans, whose real growth was 180 per cent from the low base of December 31, 1985. The other was the 25 per cent real growth in deposits of unlinked shekels, and the 6 per cent rise in foreign currency deposits in terms of their own currencies, although they declined in real shekel terms.

Discount's set-off or bad debts was cut by half in 1986, after rising sharply in 1985. It amounted to NIS 47.6m. for the group as a whole, and NIS 36m. for the bank alone.

# Cash-rich Paper Mills unveils new ventures

By KEN SCHACHTER

TEL AVIV. - American Israeli Paper Mills Ltd. Sunday outlined a far-reaching diversification program designed to extend its product and service line into chemicals, printing inks and recycling.

At a Beit Sokolow press conference, company officials said that the five-year, \$100 million expansion programme will include a \$25m. allocation for fixed assets, such as plants and machinery.

The company's new enterprises include:

- An Ashdod-based subsidiary that will produce printers' inks. Due to open in May, the firm will offer "service and advice" on matching paper and inks, said Yehuda Pritar, the paper mill's deputy general manager.
- A recycling division scheduled to begin operations within a year. It will service the glass, plastics and metal industries.
- A joint venture with Zohar Detergent Factory to manufacture chemicals. "We joined forces with them because we have the packaging and marketing facilities, while Zohar will manufacture the basic product," Pritar said. Zohar, a subsidiary of Kibbutz Dalia, makes sulphonic acid and laundry effect sulphates.
- A subsidiary due to open later

this year that will make paper and cardboard packaging.

Cost-cutting measures, high demand for paper products and a dramatic rise in paper mills stock on the American and Tel Aviv stock exchanges have spurred the cash-rich company's expansion plans.

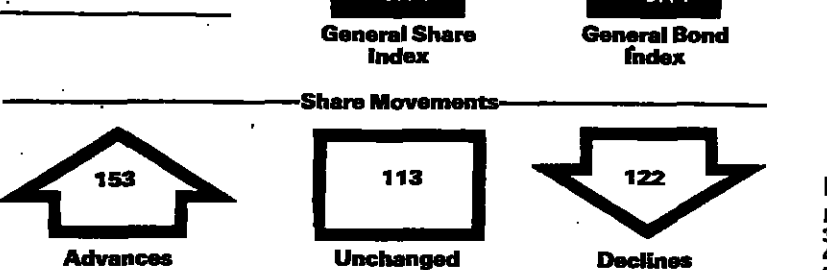
For example, the company increased the mix of recycled paper in its products, expanding collection by 25 per cent in 1986. Recycled fibres are considerably cheaper than virgin pulp.

Last week the paper mills posted net sales for 1986 of \$145.66m., compared with \$81.6m. for the final nine months of 1985. In 1986, net profit reached \$9.35m. compared with \$3.35m. from April 1, 1985 till year's end. The 1986 per share profit was \$2.72 and the company granted a \$0.40 per share dividend payable June 1. The 1986 figures were compared to a nine-month period in 1985 because the company this year aligned its fiscal year with the calendar year, as required by law.

Reflecting the company's strong position, Pritar said, paper mills' stock has soared on the American Stock Exchange from \$6 two years ago to \$26.25 at Friday's close. "We're rated 38 in *The Wall Street Journal's* evaluation of performance of all NYSE shares," Pritar said.

## Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

### MARKET STATISTICS



Stock Indices	Investment Cos.	Bond Indices
General Share (x-argmt.) 150.03-0.10%	Oil Exploration 167.86-0.89%	Index-linked Bonds 109.57+0.17%
Non-argmt. Banks 143.10-0.04%	Oil Exploration 171.06+9.55%	Partially linked 107.66+0.11%
Arrangement Banks 148.43-0.01%		Foreign Currency 108.68-0.12%
Mortgage Banks 145.80-0.02%		FC denominated 110.93-0.42%
Spec. Fin'l Inv't 112.16+0.12%		FC linked 107.44+0.01%
Insurance 124.20-1.80%		Short-term 0-2 yrs 107.36+0.07%
Commercial & Services 149.48+0.02%		Short-medium 2-5 yrs 108.08+0.22%
Real Estate & Agric. 144.51+0.45%		Medium-long 5-7 yrs 111.22-0.02%
Industrials 151.48+0.13%		Long-term 5+ yrs 112.41+0.06%
Food & Tobacco 151.71+1.34%		
Textiles 148.88+0.89%		
Metals 150.93+0.47%		
Electronics 158.66-1.81%		
Chemicals 147.39+0.34%		
Industrial Invest. 164.78 +1.58		

### SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	%
Commercial Banks			
Maritime	2680	3900	-
General non-arr.	28000	156	-0.1
First Int'l	5300	6653	+3.9
FBI	6590	6826	+3.5
Commercial Banks (part of "arrangement")			
DB	6824020	-	-
Union 0.1	not trading	-	-
Mizrahi	37530	947	-0.1
Hapoalim r	61860	1588	-0.1
General A	153500	5	+0.3
Leumi 0.1	39440	1332	-
Fin. Trade	52500	-	+0.4
Mortgage Banks			
Leumi Mort. r	9890	101	-1.0
Dev. Mort.	3730	661	-4.4
Mishkan r	3680	109	-1.3
Tefahot r	24830	68	-
Merav r	9200	272	+0.5
Financial Institutions			
Agric C	not trading	-	-
Ind. Dev. DD	not trading	-	-
Cit Leasing 0.1	29000	91	-
Insurance			
Ararat 0.1 r	1750	267	-2.8
Hasanah r	434	64315	-0.2
Phoenix 0.1	777	3447	-6.4
Hamishmar	7500	510	+4.2
Manorah 1	2700	110	+1.9
Sahar r	7280	1844	-7.8
Zion Hold. 1	12840	184	-0.8
Trade & Services			
Melr Exra	1300	3316	-
Supersol 2	12790	1493	-0.1
Delek r	5899	2994	-
Lightage	30400	115	+1.3
Cold Storage	1505	12630	-
Dan Hotels	1950	1411	+0.8
Yarden Hotel	2659	490	-7.3
Hilon 1	not trading	-	-
Team 1	1337	17395	+2.8
Real Estate, Building and Agriculture			
Azorim	1280	20169	-
Elion	490	8330	+1.2
Africa Int. 0.1	57050	721	+3.8
Denkner	7150	291	+2.1
Prop. & Bldg.	3740	170	+0.5
Bayside 0.1	4780	2322	-
ILDC r	88550	222	+1.1
Rasos r	5280	325	-0.4
Mehadrin	7080	2216	-2.2
Hadarim	1880	1642	-
Industrials			
Dubek b	6600	1049	-1.7
Wolton 1 r	15820	334	-
Sunfrost	27070	2626	-
Adgar	835	6310	+1.3
Argaman r	18400	306	+1.3
Delta 0.1	6753	1410	+2.0
Maquette 1	4799	177	-0.0
Eagle 1	752	3082	-0.7
Polgar	4820	417	+2.1
Schoeller r	19408	282	-2.8
Rogodin	3000	588	-
Urdan 0.1 r	10430	1036	+1.8
Is. Can. Co. 1	4850	1303	-1.0
Zion Cables	2850	1601	-
Packer Steel	23600	115	-0.1
Elbit	61700	98	-2.8
Investment Companies			
IDB Dev. r	8000	1812	-2.4
Elum	6050	3578	-
Afril 1	459	24584	+4.3
Galelet	1711	1196	-7.1
Israel Corp. 1	22700	2385	-
Wolton 1 r	13700	2126	-0.4
Hapoalim Inv.	11390	789	-0.5
Discount Invest.	5916	3107	-1.7
Mizrahi Invest.	37200	280	+5.2
Cit 10	1694	8348	-0.3
Landco 0.1	3320	919	+1.5
Pama 0.1	13000	91	+0.8
Oil Exploration			
Paz Oil Expl.	34000	172	+5.3
J.O.E.L.	7385	5312	+1.0

## U.S. cancels gas mask order

Jerusalem Post Staff

The U.S. Army has cancelled an \$8 million contract for gas masks from a Bet Shean plant, in what plant managers said yesterday was a reaction to the Pollard affair.

The Rabintex Industries Ltd. won the order a year ago, and according to its general manager, Menachem Kalir, it had already invested some \$2m. in the masks' production. Kalir told Israel Radio yesterday the plant would see the U.S. Armed Forces.

The U.S. Army claims the contract was cancelled because the plant was late in delivering the masks, but Kalir yesterday called this "baseless." He added that the plant, one of three owned by Rabintex, may face closure and mass firings because of the cancellation.

Notice of the U.S. Army's change of mind arrived in Bet Shean immediately after delivery of the first batch of masks was completed, in early March.

## Dollar dips, as market tests resolve of the G-6

LONDON, (Reuters) - The dollar fell yesterday to its lowest on the foreign exchanges since six leading industrial nations agreed in February to stabilize currency values, a pact that the market may now be about to test.

Dealers said the dollar briefly touched a low here of 1.818 Deutschmarks, closing in London at 1.8205. That compared with 1.87 marks less than two weeks ago. The pound sterling firmed amid forecasts that its recent rally has further to go, and it closed at 1.6172 dollars.

In Tokyo, the dollar slipped below 151 yen for the first time since January 28 closing at 150.731, down more than a half yen from Friday.

Dealers said some speculators were selling dollars to test the industrialized nations' resolve to keep currency markets stable. The leading central banks could, if they wished, iron out disruptive dollar swings with big buy or sell orders.

Finance Ministers of the U.S., Japan, West Germany, France, Britain and Canada - known as the G-6 - met in Paris on February 22 and announced they favoured stabler currencies. Since the Paris meeting, foreign exchange dealers have been guessing on whether the finance

ministers' accord also included a secret pact to co-ordinate central bank intervention to stop the dollar renewing its tumble.

In any case, the dollar rebounded to a high of 1.8715 marks in the weeks following the G-6 parity, rising on March 11. But since then it has eased again, with the fall accelerating yesterday. Dealers said it now looked as if the market - which still thinks the dollar may be overvalued - might be about to make its first serious test of the central banks' post-Paris resolve.

Speculators who were inclined to sell dollars, however, remained wary that, if they did so, they could be "burned" by snap central bank purchases.

The European market yesterday was partly driven down by earlier dollar selling in the Far East. Another factor which helped push the dollar lower was a comment by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker in an interview on British Television.

A remark by Baker that the leading industrialized nations did not set a target exchange rate for the dollar in Paris on February 22 was taken as a sign that the U.S. might still want a weaker dollar, dealers said.

## Lorincz to head central bank panel

By AVI TEMKIN

Post Economics Reporter

A two-year standoff between Labour and the Likud came to an end last night, with the appointment of Shlomo Lorincz as chairman of the Bank of Israel's Advisory Committee.

Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, meeting with Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi, also agreed to name Eitan Berglass as vice chairman of the nine-person committee. Lorincz is a former head of the Knesset Finance Committee; Berglass is chairman of Bank Hapoalim's board of directors.

By law, the Bank of Israel is required to consult the Advisory Committee on a wide range of policy decisions, including the setting of interest rates, the standards for commercial bank liquidity and capital-to-asset-ratios and the regulations on bank credits.

For two years, the bank has been operating without an Advisory Committee, because the two main coalition partners were unable to agree over who would hold the powerful post of chairman. The matter was resolved yesterday as part of a package deal between the Labour and the Likud, driving up various appointments in the government.

## UNION BANK OF ISRAEL LTD. בנק איגוד ישראל בע"מ

(Member of Bank Leumi Le-Israel B.M. Group)

### CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1986

Adjusted for the effect of inflation based on the December 1986 index (NIS thousands)

	31.12.1986	31.12.1985		31.12.1986	31.12.1985
ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
Cash on Hand and Deposits			Deposits of Banks	590,297	708,432
with Bank of Israel	588,141	691,873	Deposits of the Public	1,242,459	1,259,972
Deposits with Banks	866,107	672,876	Deposits for the Granting		
Bonds for Investment	16,413	39,337	of Loans	168,757	158,986
Shares for Investment	1,089	1,625	Non-convertible Capital Note	7,432	8,970
Securities for Trading	403	213	Other Liabilities	11,202	14,246
Loans to the Government	147,135	168,721	Total Liabilities	2,020,147	2,150,606
Loans to the Public	638,191	590,024	Shareholders' Equity	73,306	67,807
Bank Premises and Equipment	19,918	18,572			
Other Assets	16,056	37,172			
	2,093,453	2,218,413			

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1986

Adjusted for the effect of inflation based on the December 1986 index (NIS thousands)

	1986	1985
Operating Profit before Taxation	30,892	22,967
Provision for Taxation on Operating Profit	(25,300)	(11,987)
Operating Profit after Taxation	5,592	10,980
The Bank's Equity in Profit (Loss) of Subsidiaries and Affiliates, net	(93)	42
Net Profit for the Year	5,499	11,022

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1986

Adjusted for the effect of inflation based on the December 1986 index (NIS thousands)

	1986	1985
Shareholders' Equity at Beginning of Year	67,807	56,785
Net Profit for the Year	5,499	11,022
Shareholders' Equity at End of Year	73,306	67,807

The audited annual report is available to the public in all branches of the Bank.

## 'Bank overcharged on interest'

Jerusalem Post Staff

One of Israel's three leading banks has been inadvertently charging its customers too much interest on loans for the past three months, the Bank of Israel revealed last night, but would not disclose the name of the bank.

A representative of the bank yesterday told the Knesset Finance

Committee of the discovery and said the bank has been instructed to correct the error immediately. According to Israel Television, the compensation that the bank will be required to pay the clients overcharged has yet to be determined.

Israel Radio said yesterday the bank overcharged its customers a total of NIS 5 million.

## Israel Money Market

Shekel Deposits (annual rates)				
Bank	Deposit Size	7 days	14 days	30 days
Last Updated: 10:00 (Mar. 22)				
Leumi (Mar. 22)	500-999	10.00	11.00	12.00
	1,000-9,999	23.50	21.50	21.50
	10,000-49,999	28.00	23.50	22.00
	50,000+	25.50	23.00	22.50
	Up to 999	—	—	—
Hapoalim	1,000-9,999	—	—	—
	10,000-49,999	—	—	—
	50,000+	—	—	—
	49,999	10.00	11%	12.00
	1,000-10,000	22.00	22%	22.50
Discount (Mar. 20)	10,001-50,000	24.00	24%	24.00
	50,001-99,999	24.50	24.50%	25.00
	1,000-1,000	—	—	—
	1,001-2,500	—	—	—
	2,501-5,000	—	—	—
Mizrahi	5,001-10,000	—	—	—
	10,001-50,000	—	—	—
	50-999	17.00	15.10	15.10
	1,000-4,999	22.00	21.90	21.40
	5,000-9,999	22.40	22.20	22.20
First Int'l (Mar. 18)	10,000-49,999	24.00	23.50	22.70
	50,000+	23.00	25.00	24.00



# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## The chief rabbis' challenge

BY PUTTING OFF its consideration of the cases of two immigrant converts - Conservative converts, this time - seeking to be registered as Jews on their ID cards, the High Court of Justice yesterday narrowly averted the outbreak of a fully fledged *Kulturkampf* in Israel. But not for long.

That the High Court should have been required to return so soon after its decision in the Shoshana Miller case to the issue of the status of non-Orthodox converts under the Law of Return, was itself rather strange. When the court laid down, last December, that Ms. Miller, a Reform convert, was to be registered simply as Jew, it was generally taken to be an authoritatively binding exposition of the law, applicable to all similar cases.

To be sure, the general view was not shared by the then interior minister, Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz. But that was precisely the reason he found a few weeks later that he had no choice but to resign.

When Deputy Minister Ronni Milo took over from him, it was widely anticipated that he would junk Rabbi Peretz's legacy of rebelliousness against the High Court. He did, but only up to a point. Rabbi Peretz is, after all, the leader of Shas, and Mr. Milo's party, the Likud, has a stake in Shas. So while vowing to obey decisions of the court, Mr. Milo in effect made it obligatory for immigrant non-Orthodox converts to repeatedly seek relief from the court to be certified as Jews.

That had not been the High Court's original intention. But the court was willing yesterday to grant the Interior Ministry 45 days in which to explain why Gail Moskowitch, converted by a Conservative rabbi in the U.S., should not be registered as a Jew just like Ms. Miller; and to allow the State Attorney's Office 45 days in which to sort out the suddenly revealed "technical flaws" in the case of the couple Julia and Murilo Varela, converted by a Conservative rabbi in Brazil.

The Chief Rabbinate, however, along with most everyone else, had expected the court to issue a permanent injunction, bidding the Interior Ministry to follow the Miller precedent in the case of the couple, at least.

In a pre-emptive strike, therefore, the Chief Rabbinate had, a day before, publicly threatened to put out a stern denunciation of the court should it commit so reprehensible an act. The court, the chief rabbis warned, would in such an event be told that it had no authority whatever to change halacha by "registering goyim as Jews."

That was roughly what 19 dayanim had stated in their "halachic ruling" last month regarding Ms. Miller, in which Attorney-General Yosef Harish had detected elements of a criminal offence.

Chief Rabbis Avraham Shapiro and Mordechai Eliahu cannot be so utterly ignorant of the law as not to know what the issue of registration of immigrant non-Orthodox converts as Jews in their ID cards is all about. It is not about the recognition of such converts as Jews for the purpose of, say, the celebration of a Jewish marriage by Orthodox rabbis.

The consummation so devoutly wished by the chief rabbis is not to block a change in the halachic definition of a Jew, but to obtain the power to dictate to government ministries the manner of their applying the state law.

Had the chief rabbis not been state employees themselves, and alternately heads of the Chief Rabbinate Court, their own "halachic ruling" would have been perfectly within the law. But for them, in their official positions, to challenge the authority of the High Court to render judgment in matters that are not, strictly speaking, the business of the chief rabbis at all, is rank perfidy.

They have now, in so many words, declared war on the State of Israel, a state based not on halacha but on the law of freedom, democracy, equality, and pluralism. If they get hurt in this war, they will have only themselves to blame.

## Enjoyable summer hours

AT LONG LAST, daylight saving time extending over a period of five months, from April 11 till September 12.

The government's decision to introduce it will be welcomed by most everyone. It should certainly make living this summer that much easier, and it should be written into law for all future summers. So that the controversy that has been erupting over the issue annually would be put to rest.

It would have been better if the government had endorsed Energy Minister Moshe Shalom's original proposal for daylight saving time beginning in early April and ending in late October. But a compromise had to be worked out to appease religious ministers who claimed that daylight saving, in this country, would make it most inconvenient for the observant to say their morning prayers.

The compromise was designed to at least spare the observant who arise before dawn for their Shabbat services.

Now that we are assured of having it, the mystery is why it should have taken us so long to do what most of the rest of the civilized world has been doing for generations. It is not just the \$6 million or so Mr. Shalom says will be saved by putting the clock forward that clinches the argument - though such sums are not to be sneezed at.

The indisputable fact is that daylight saving time - or Summer Time as some insist on calling it - is good for us.

Put the clock forward and you immediately eliminate the red-hot rush hour that makes going to work a nightmare, and sets productivity nosediving as the temperature soars. Daylight saving also means no trekking home in the midday sun for thousands of school-children and it promises plenty of sun-lit hours for relaxation after the day's work is done.

Polls have shown that the people, both religious and secular, Orthodox and what-have-you, are overwhelmingly in favour of adjusting the clock. What the government has done was simply to heed vox populi.

## INQUIRY

(Continued from Page One)

Harish is expected to consult with Prime Minister Shamir before submitting new proposals to Libai. At this time, observers say, the deadlock may well force the cabinet to reconsider the possibility of establishing a judicial commission of inquiry.

Asher Wallfish adds: Meanwhile, the sub-committee on

intelligence services of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, chaired by Abba Eban, yesterday heard Prime Minister Shamir for three hours.

"I gave the Eban committee top secret information," Shamir said during a tour of Netivot later in the day. "We had a lengthy discussion, and I learned a lot from the MK's questions. I hope they learned something from my answers too."

The sub-committee, which is still maintaining the pace of a meeting a day, will this week hear former defence minister (and now Minister without Portfolio) Moshe Arens.

It will also hear Yagur, Ravid and Erb.

From sub-committee sources it was understood that the list of witnesses will be exhausted this week.

THOSE PEOPLE involved in the movement for a secular humanistic Judaism seem to me to be engaged in a very worthy quest, but perhaps they are not going about it in quite the right way.

It is the task of every generation to bring fresh insights to our ancient but ever-relevant heritage. There are two conditions however: if they claim to be Jewish, these insights must grow out of and be consistent with the most basic perceptions of that heritage, while secondly, old mistakes should not be repeated.

To me, the most amazing thing about this movement is its claim to novelty (Zev Katz, *The Jerusalem Post*, March 3, 1987). Jewish secular humanism is old hat. It is "the god that failed." The past 100 years have witnessed the rise and fall of more than one such movement.

Many of the founding fathers of Zionism, for example, in their eagerness to throw off the Judaism of the shtetl, tried to promote a kind of secular Judaism which derived its values in the main from European nationalism and humanism, though lip service was paid to the ideals of the Hebrew prophets. As is well known the prophets did not like lip service, and this cultural goal was not realised.

What we have now in Israel is a mishmash of cultures, predominant among them an American secular culture of the most vulgar sort. It is a Talmudic insight that "when Jews

ape gentiles they copy the worst and not the best" (Sanhedrin 39b). It revolts me to think we shall have to go through this whole process yet again.

Jews are, or used to be, realistic people, and should have learnt by now that a rootless humanism can never develop the dynamic force needed to change human beings. The will to apply the enormous effort required can come only from the true Jewish insight of the spiritual nature of man.

Zev Katz has plunged into deep waters by his stated intent to present a Judaism "without a...transcendental divine source." The demand to drop the idea of a transcendental God, and thus to read purpose out of the universe, belongs to the 19th century. This is also something that has had its day and has been found wanting. The whole trend of 20th century science has been towards restoring basic Jewish insights.

It is a sign of the times when an eminent erstwhile atheist (Fred Hoyle) ends his book on evolution by mentioning the previously unmentionable - God. Similarly, another author (Paul Davies) concludes *Superforce*, his book on the strange frontiers of modern physics

# The failed god

Aryeh Carmell

with the sentence: "If physics is the product of design, the universe must have a purpose, and the evidence of modern physics suggests strongly to me that the purpose includes us."

THE TROUBLE is, people think they can eliminate God and retain man. They forget that by eliminating God they also effectively eliminate man as a free, spiritual being. In was Nietzsche's madman who cried out in despair that men who have killed off the idea of God have thereby killed themselves; they are like people in a free fall, not knowing up or down, right or left. Having thrown away their moral compass they can do anything.

Nietzsche had the decency to go mad, but Hitler followed his doctrine with blood-curdling literalness. He did the unspeakable, but not before his humanistic insights had convinced him that he was doing a humanitarian act by ridding the world of mental defectives, Gypsies and Jews. Hitler was a secular humanist to the core. He did more than anyone to lay bare the ultimate

logic of this doctrine.

Of course, those involved in the movement for a secular humanistic Judaism are nice people and their secular humanism would be nothing like this, God forbid. But movements tend to have a momentum and a logic of their own. As C.S. Lewis noted, the secular humanists' programme, shorn of its rhetoric, means ultimately the abolition of man.

The prophet Isaiah dealt with the topic in his inimitable manner: "All flesh (i.e. all humanity) is grass and all its kindness (i.e. the good intentions of secular humanism) is like the flower of the field; the grass withers, the flower fades...but the word of our God endures forever." (Isaiah 40: 6-8).

Isaiah is telling us that secular humanism may appear to be kind and reasonable, but its goodness does not last very long. Like grass, it has shallow roots. Its insights fade, its challenges pall. If there is no purpose, there is no task, no challenge. For secular youth the world over, life is one big yawn. Why bother?

Only people who are attuned to the spiritual, and who in some sense hear the voice of God in the past and the present, have values which are

not subject to human whims. To listen faithfully to this voice may involve some anachronisms: there may be some awkwardness in fitting our insights into our present reality. But the price is well worth paying. We have a dependable reference point. We have a scale of real values which are constantly being vindicated in the only arena that counts - the arena of life itself. I don't think it can be denied that Orthodox Judaism today is the one sector of Jewish life worldwide that shows a vibrant, confident upturn. Maybe there is something in those ancient insights after all.

If would-be Jewish secular humanists were only to realize that their very idealism entails a transcendental, divine basis, perhaps they would not be so quick to dispense with this fundamental Jewish insight.

If they were prepared to discuss and analyse the meaning of such terms as "moral values," "spiritual being," "transcendental source" and "the voice of God," perhaps we would discover that not so much divides us as we first thought. My own feeling is - and I say this very tentatively and am open to correction - there is room for dialogue. Given goodwill, and before things have gone too far, there may just possibly still be room for dialogue. We are ready for it. Are they?

The writer is a rabbi and vice-principal of the Jerusalem Academy of Jewish Studies.

# A secular objection

Susan Hattis Rolef

scene (and a few others) out - then it is we who must do some serious soul searching.

The *Last Secular Jew* is not only living proof to the religious claim that secular society is rotten (as they claim it to be) - it is living proof to those of us who believe in humanism that the danger from decadent secularism is as great - perhaps even greater - than from dark-age superstitious religion.

Those who are happy today to portray religious characters as sexual pervers will tomorrow, if given the power, close down synagogues. I know a professor at the Hebrew University who would have the Bible banned from schools because he claims it is the source of the anti-democratic currents in Israeli society.

NOW MANY of us who define ourselves as atheists or secular humanists share this concern about

growing religious coercion. It is not that we object particularly to religious wedding ceremonies as much as to not being given an alternative and having to suffer humiliations, as when a prospective bride admits to the *rebbezin* who is supposed to set the date for the wedding, that she is pregnant.

It is not that we object to religious burials - some of us just find burial without coffins and malpractices of the *Hevra Kadisha* (burial society) distasteful, and would like the option of cremation. It is not that we want abortions to become a common substitute for contraception - it is that we want every person to be able to determine the course of his or her own life, in so far as this is humanly possible.

But by portraying religion as

equivalent to what its most extreme margins claim it to be, we cut off the branch on which we sit. There can be no Zionism without Judaism, and Judaism, whether we like it or not, is not only the advanced social doctrine preached by the prophets. It is also the Jewish religion which we need not observe but at least ought to get to know and respect.

The attack on religion as manifested in *The Last Secular Jew* is as repulsive as hearing Rabbi Uri Zohar equate secular life with his own past debauchery. In his secularism he used to be as extreme as he is in his religious fanaticism today. That does not make his secularism a model for all secularism, nor his blind religious subservience a model for all religion.

But if we move on to *tachles*, then a few facts and figures might be in place. In the First Knesset, when both the non-Zionist religious and national-religious camps were weak

and humble, the religious parties had 16 seats. Today, boisterous, haughty and assuming as they are, they only have 12 (13 if you add Kahane, and 15 if you add Rabbi Hachohen of the Labour Party and Waldman of Tehiya). The difference between 1949 and 1987 is in the distribution of the remaining 104-108 Knesset seats.

Short of some major change in the voting patterns of the public, the only way to bring the religious camp back to its natural dimensions is to exert heavy and systematic pressure on both the Alignment and Likud to stop competing for the favours of the religious parties at the expense of Israel's future as an enlightened pluralistic society.

I cannot see anyone even trying to do this. All I can see are a lot of secular Jews running around like "stunned cockroaches in a bottle" (of we may borrow an expression from Rafal). If *The Last Secular Jew* is the best we can do - we deserve a halachic state.

The writer is editor of the Labour Movement English-language monthly Spectrum.

## READERS' LETTERS

### THE WASHINGTON EMBASSY

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, - I am responding to your report of March 15, entitled "Washington Embassy staff complain against ambassador."

It is alleged, presumably also by the Tower review board spokesmen, that our response to the board was sent belatedly and by regular mail. The facts are as follows: On February 3, 1987 the U.S. government sent us, inter alia, in the name of the Tower Commission, a request to interview the Israelis involved in the Iran affair. We responded promptly (4.2.87) that we were ready to cooperate in written form on a government-to-government basis, following the necessary preparation.

On February 17, during the prime minister's visit to Washington, we received a letter dated February 10 from the commission to which lists of detailed questions were attached. The responses were requested by February 19. Naturally, it was not technically possible to comply by that date, or even soon thereafter. I explained all this on the same day, February 17, at a meeting with representatives of all the investigating bodies in the State Department, including a representative of the Tower Commission.

At the end of the prime minister's visit, on February 20, we sent a letter, signed by the ambassador, which respectfully reiterated our readiness to cooperate if the time limit was extended. I personally handed the letter to representatives of the State Department on the very same day, in the presence of embassy members, requesting that it be conveyed promptly to the Tower Commission, and this was promised. (By the way, the Tower commission representative told us that the report would be going to print on Tuesday, February 24.) Talking about regular

mail and "evasion" is without foundation. I would like to add that we stand by our commitment to cooperate. Obviously a great deal of preparation is naturally involved.

I would like to add a personal note concerning the embassy, since your story mentioned complaints from within. I served until October 1986 as the minister at the embassy (this is the title of the No. 2 man, and not "political representative" as defined in your report), and my remarks are based on my experience there.

The ambassador and the staff are a group of people working competently and with devotion. Ambassador Rosenne himself came to Washington following 30 years in the civil service in various positions, including ambassador to France. All the assignments were carried out efficiently and effectively. In Washington, where much of his tenure was under the unprecedentedly difficult conditions of a national unity government - the nuances of which do not make life in an embassy, particularly in the U.S., easier at all - Rosenne invested great effort and won the appreciation of many important elements in the administration and the public, including the Jewish community. It should be noted that his tenure in office has been one of the best in U.S.-Israel relations, up until the recent events known to us all.

True, the present situation does not help; but a public servant who has dedicated a lifetime to the service merits more respect: general defamation by anonymous embassy sources should not be printed. I would add that not only the press, but the public service itself, owe a debt of gratitude to officials about to end their tenure in office.

ELYAKIM RUBINSTEIN, Government Secretary, Jerusalem.

### REDUCTIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*

Sir, - I would like to know why it is so difficult for senior citizens to discover that they are eligible for reductions at some theatres, museums and stores and on certain products, such as Elite sweets.

For instance, the Jerusalem Theatre gives reductions to senior citizens at their film shows - provided you know this and ask for it. I could give a list of stores I "discovered" to be "helpful", but I believe it would be better if they displayed this information on a sign - and then raked in their benefits.

The recipient of a pensioner's card should be given a leaflet listing the benefits available to him or her. Or, out of good business sense let alone courtesy, the stores, theatres etc. should advertise these facts at their entrances. Perhaps municipalities or Merchants' Associations could assist by providing the signs. One should not have to research for these benefits.

CARY KLOETZEL, Jerusalem.

### TV AND RADIO FORMAT

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*

Sir, - I really must express my delight about the "new look" of your weekend TV and radio schedule.

Not only does all the information appear on a single page, but - and this I always missed sorely - you also tell us what to expect on the following Friday. Now we can plan our Friday outings well ahead.

Congratulations and thank you.

EVA WILLENZ, Netanya.

### ELI DAYAN AND THE DMC

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, - I am amazed to read Mr. Hillson's letter in your issue of February 8. For some time now Mr. Hillson has been writing similar letters.

In discussing the Democratic Movement for Change, I told him that in my opinion the break-up of the party was caused by those members whom I termed "protesters" - people more suited to be in an opposition party.

At no time during the interview did I mention Shmuel Tamir's name in connection with the dissolution of

the party. On the contrary, I stressed his calming influence and the fact that he had contributed enormously to the harmony existing between the Yigael Yadin group and the Oded group, which I headed. Mr. Tamir is a friend of long-standing and someone whom I admire tremendously. *inter alia*, as one of the most effective ministers of justice this country has had.

ELI DAYAN, Mayor of Ashkelon

Ashkelon. Mark Segal comments: I stand corrected.

### HERZLIYA ROAD

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, - I was amazed to read Mr. Hillson's letter in your issue of February 8. For some time now Mr. Hillson has been writing similar letters.

Mr. Hillson has been living in Herzliya Pituah for the last 20 years. After moving into his home he unilaterally "requisitioned" some public land adjoining his property and incorporated this booty into his garden for his private joy and conveni-

ence. Because of this, the municipality was not able to complete a road for the use of children to nearby Brandeis school.

Under the direction and personal initiative of the present mayor, Eli Landau, when he took office, the land was restored to its rightful public use and the road was enlarged.

YOSI GIVATY, Municipal Spokesman, Herzliya.

### UNDESERVED PRAISE

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*

Sir, - The praise lavished by your finance reporter (in *The Post* of January 12) on Mr. Ernst Wodak for his performance on the board of Bank Leumi, is misplaced: Mr. Ernst Wodak cannot have believed in the importance of being earnest about his resolve to resign from the board; it took him three years (!) to implement this decision, from the bank shares crash of 1983 till the publication of the Bejski report in 1986.

Moreover, during Mr. Wodak's tenure on the board, the manipula-

tion and regulation of Bank Leumi's shares on the stock market reached its peak, yet Mr. Wodak never objected to the malpractice. The Bejski report established that on the boards of all the banks, none of the directors, including Mr. Wodak, protested against the bank shares monkey-business, none except "one tzaddik in Sdom." Advocate Eliyahu Miron, a director of Bank Mizrahi, who consistently raised his voice in opposition (as evidenced by the minutes of the meetings of its board of directors.)

ZEPHANIAH KAHALANI, Herzliya.



## DEMJANJUK ON TRIAL

media in sufficiently strong terms to exercise restraint in its reporting of the case.

When Sheftel concluded his list of complaints and reiterated his demand that the court disqualify itself, prosecutor Michael Shaked in his mild manner told him that: "Your selective sensitivity is the source of all this." He pointed out that "these things are everyday occurrences in Israeli courts, and there is no need to give them too much weight."

Shaked then cited two cases (Abuhazzeira v. State of Israel, and Angel v. State of Israel) in which similar occurrences had taken place, without arousing reactions by the defence. "I don't think the defence has raised any objections of real weight," he said.

Regarding the charge relating to the news media, Shaked said: "I don't want to go into who gives interviews every Monday and Thursday."

Shaked had copies of the Abuhazzeira and Angel judgments in his

hands, which seemed to indicate that he had foreknowledge of the defence's planned attack on the court. The judges themselves, however, seemed to be taken completely by surprise.

In the decision read by Levin, the court denied any feeling of hostility and cited the more than 2,000 pages of protocol taken so far as proof.

Regarding the court's overruling of questions, Levin said: "We do this to both sides; we're not a passive court, it's our job to see that the trial does not go off the rails. We do not intervene more than is reasonable."

As for the exchange between Sheftel and witness Radiwker, Levin said that the court has a duty to protect a witness against unfair questioning. "That is what we did. We also protected you (Sheftel) against impolite expressions by the witness."

Levin said that several of Sheftel's quotations from the protocol had been taken out of context.

Following the reading of the

court's decision, Sheftel announced that the defence would appeal to the Supreme Court. He demanded that the trial be stopped forthwith, pending a decision.

Levin replied that the court would exercise its authority to continue the trial, even while a possible appeal was being launched. He explained that a recess of even a few days, would upset the time schedules of witnesses, especially those coming from abroad.

He said of himself and his two colleagues that: "We all have neglected our obligations in other cases. A postponement of the trial would even work to the detriment of the accused, Demjanjuk, whose arrest would thus be prolonged."

After the noon recess the prosecution called police investigator Martin Kolar, 67, who had taken over from Miriam Radiwker when she retired. A native of Czechoslovakia with a command of many languages, Kolar had lost his family in the Holocaust but himself survived in labour camps. After the war he worked for the Czech interior ministry which sent him to the Nuremberg war crimes trials. Later he worked in mining and in forestry until his aliya

in 1965, when he immediately found work with the Israel Police.

O'Connor began his cross-examination of Kolar, which will continue today. He asked Kolar many additional details about his background in Communist Czechoslovakia, his preparation for his job as interrogator, his training with the police here, and his methods of working.

Kolar testified that four Treblinka survivors he questioned in 1978 and 1979 had identified Demjanjuk in photographs as being Ivan the Terrible. Kolar said that when he showed the photo to Sonja Lefkowitz, a survivor who worked in the camp laundry, she said: "This is Ivan, of whom I spoke to you. It's the same forehead, the same neck, the same broad shoulders. This is Ivan."

At one stage during the cross-examination prosecutor Shaked objected to one of O'Connor's questions as being irrelevant. But Levin overruled him, saying that "we'll be patient, as we have been till now."

Meanwhile it is learned that Demjanjuk's two daughters, Irene Nishnik, 26, and Lydia Meday, 36, arrived here from the U.S. yesterday to be at their father's trial for a while.

Gurdjieff  
 Ouspensky  
 Centre  
 052-574423